

THE TIMES

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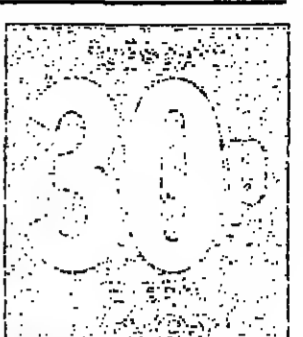
John Bayley:
HOW I FELL IN
LOVE WITH
IRIS MURDOCH



Anna Blundy:
NEW EYES
ON LIFE IN
MOSCOW



Libby Purves:
IS NOTHING
PRIVATE
ANYMORE?

'Greedy bastards' of the boardroom

TUC leader lambasts directors' pay

By Christine Buckley and Jill Sherman

JOHN EDMONDS, President of the TUC, yesterday delivered a scathing attack on boardroom pay branding some directors as "greedy bastards".

In a vitriolic condemnation of soaring executive pay, which will be followed later this week by a separate attack from John Monks, TUC General Secretary, Mr Edmonds said there should be government action against directors who take pay increases of £50,000 or more.

Meanwhile John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, offered little hope of any significant rises in public-sector pay in the near future.

Mr Edmonds, General Secretary of the GMB, began the TUC Congress on a controversial note by also calling for higher tax levels for top earners. He said: "Executive pay is now the politics of the pig trough. We have little chance of creating a fair society unless we insist that people with great power act with a similar level of responsibility."

Mr Edmonds, who last week warned of industrial unrest over public pay levels, urged Stephen Byers, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, to clamp down on boardroom excesses in his general drive to curb pay levels. He said: "A company director who takes a pay rise of £50,000 when the rest of the workforce is getting a few hundred is not part of some general trend."

Ruth Lea, head of policy at the Institute of Directors, defended pay levels although she said there were occasional

abuses. She said: "Some of the top directors are stars of the system." She said that even a pay jump of £50,000 may be acceptable in some circumstances and accused Mr Edmonds of "intemperate language".

Simon Sperry, chief executive of the London Chambers of Commerce, attacked Mr Edmonds for using the "language of the saloon bar". A spokeswoman for the Confederation of British Industry said that directors also took pay cuts as well as benefiting from rises.

Tomorrow the TUC will publish a new probe into remuneration committees — the teams of directors which set boardroom pay and benefits packages — which have been criticised by Mr Monks as an old-boys network. He will target them as pressure grows among unions to narrow the gap between public-sector pay and that of directors.

Mr Prescott said that the Government had to be "firm and fair" and had to recruit and motivate staff. But this had to be within the limits of what could be afforded. "You in your own unions have to live within your budget and so does Government. We must manage our resources."

Mr Edmonds said higher earners should pay more tax to quell inflation. He said: "Our income tax rates are the lowest in Europe and high interest charges are crushing British industry. So we must have the courage to break this ill-founded consensus, and tell

people earning over £50,000 or £100,000 a year that they must pay higher taxes."

Mr Edmonds said that privatisation had left "a bunch of water companies where there seem to be almost as many bloated rodents in the boardroom as in the sewers. He added: "And what did the privatisation of the railways teach us other than the fact that you need more than beard, an open-neck shirt and a failed diploma in ballooning to make the trains run on time?"

Unison, Britain's biggest union set out a hall of shame in the privatised utilities. It said that Iain Robinson, chief executive of ScottishPower, earns £487,345, a 23 per cent rise last year from 1997. Gordon Owen, chief executive of Energis, the telecoms company, received a 358 per cent pay rise to £938,967 and Jim Forbes, chief executive of Southern Electric, last year was paid £399,000, a 45 per cent rise.

The union, which is campaigning for the minimum wage to be increased from £3.60 to £4.61, said the pay of the best-paid directors dwarfed that of ordinary workers.

Later Mr Prescott accused trade unions of playing up the threat of a recession and making unrealistic demands over both public-sector pay and interest rates. In a surprisingly blunt message, Mr Prescott told delegates to stop whingeing over the economy.

Michael Gove, page 18
TUC reports, page 28



The President and Hillary Clinton ponder the global financial crisis during their visit to New York yesterday

Clinton promises to lead the world

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT CLINTON yesterday told Americans that the "United States has an absolutely inescapable obligation to lead" the world out of financial crisis, as he hit the lecture and party circuit in an attempt to repair his image and fill his party's coffers.

His remarks came as he, his wife Hillary, Vice-President Al Gore and his wife Tipper descended on Manhattan.

It was the first time that the quartet, once dubbed the party's "fabulous foursome", had appeared in public together since President Clinton's confession of an adulterous affair with Monica Lewinsky.

Mr Clinton told Americans that "we cannot forever be an oasis of prosperity" during global financial upheaval. "The biggest challenge facing the world in a half century", he warned Congress that it would be failing its "responsibilities" if it failed to give more money to the International Monetary Fund.

In remarks widely seen as an implicit call for lower interest rates, he said that inflation "was a good thing to be preoccupied with" but that battle had been won. A cut in rates could boost the slowing economy, the extraordinary strength of which has underpinned Mr Clinton's popularity.

He called for ministers and central bankers to meet in the next month to come up with urgent responses to the crisis afflicting more than a third of the world economy.

After Mr Clinton's speech at the Council on Foreign Relations, the first stop was a \$50,000-a-head fund-raising gathering at the Fifth Avenue home of Denise Rich, a Manhattan socialite and song-

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Captain Scott's belongings may go back to his Antarctic hut

By Stephen Farrell



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AN HISTORIC candle lantern and other artefacts taken from Captain Scott and Sir Ernest Shackleton's South Pole expedition huts were yesterday withdrawn from a Christie's auction, hours after historians voiced concern over their sale.

Their owner, a retired New Zealand Air Force Wing Commander, John Clayton, pulled lots 210-214 from the *Exploration and Travel* sale and donated them to the Scott Polar Research Institute after the author Jeff Rubin wrote to *The Times* saying the sale damaged the continent's cultural heritage.

Last night Christie's was due to hand them to Dr John Heap, executive director of the Institute. They will be sent back to New Zealand, which



"Oh my God! Christie's have got here before us"

controls the Ross Dependency and may ultimately be put back in the Scott and Shackleton huts.

The controversial objects, estimated to fetch £13,000, included a candle lantern from Shackleton's Cape Royds hut on his 1907-09 expedition; leather sledge straps from Captain Scott's 1902-04 Discovery Expedition; Hut; a brass coat-hook from Scott's Cape Evans cubicle and a glass beaker, crucible and bottles from Dr Edward Adrian Wilson's cubicle.

Wing Commander Clayton, 80, one of the first New Zealanders to go to the South Pole, removed them in 1957 while running air support for the Commonwealth Trans-Antarctic expedition. Two years later the 1959 Antarctic Treaty was passed protecting the sites and banning the removal of objects.

He said that he had left them in his garage for 40 years until he decided to get

rid of them, and that money from the sale was "intended to go back to the Antarctic." But yesterday he agreed to donate them to the Institute and said the auction house had waived its usual penalty for items withdrawn late.

"In view of the hoo-hah it was decided to withdraw them. I suggested that they should go to the Antarctic Heritage Trust in the UK. They can send them back to New Zealand or they can go back to the huts," he said.

Both Wing Commander Clayton and Christie's insisted he was the rightful owner because the items came into his possession before the 1959 Treaty.

Mr Rubin said that an auction would have sent the wrong message to the increasing numbers of tourists.

Viagra on the NHS is banned

DOCTORS have been ordered not to prescribe Viagra on the NHS. Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, said yesterday that if there was a rush on the anti-impotence drug other patients could be denied the treatment they needed.

In a letter to GPs, health authorities and trusts, Mr Dobson said the ban was an interim measure.

The drug may be licensed in Europe today, and GPs will then be able to prescribe it, but only on a private prescription. Each pill is expected to cost £4.84, but it is difficult to predict how many men will want treatment, so estimates of the total cost of prescribing it have ranged from £50 million (from the manufacturer, Pfizer) to £1 billion a year.

Dobson ban, page 4

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Source: Life and Pensions Money Facts - July 1998

Wallace dies

George Wallace, the former Governor of Alabama, has died aged 79. Mr Wallace, who recanted his segregationism, was shot and paralysed in 1972 as he campaigned for the presidency. Page 21

Bowler's perfect score is just not good enough

From Rob Hughes in Kuala Lumpur

SPORTING perfection can still mean defeat if you haven't got the perfect partner, an Englishman discovered at the Commonwealth Games yesterday. Competing in tenpin bowling, Richard Hood knocked down all ten pins, ten times in a row.

It was the equivalent of a cricketer hitting six sixes or a snooker player achieving a maximum 147 break, but Hood was left with a silver medal and forced to endure the strains of the Australian anthem.

The problem was that he was playing mixed doubles. The 300 points that the com-



Richard Hood on his way to a maximum 300 tenpin bowling score in Malaysia

puter consultant scored in a shopping mall in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, was not quite enough to win the mixed doubles event. The combined score of Cara Honeychurch, a diminutive Australian, and her partner Frank "the tank" Ryan beat the total of Hood and his teammate, Pauline Buck, from Surbiton, Surrey.

But while the gold went to Australia, the bespectacled Hood won the adulation of the audience. Tenpin bowling, although invented in New York in 1890, is a national obsession in Malaysia. It was included in the Games for the first time at the insistence of the home country — which had high

hopes of taking the gold itself. Excitement was already growing among the audience of 2,000 when Hood, 44, bowled his seventh ball. By the time the final pin toppled, hundreds of extra spectators were standing at the back of the crowded hall, craning for a view. Members of other teams joined the celebrations, exchanging high fives as Hood, the calmest person in the arena hit perfection.

In a competition lasting several hours, the score by the English pair was just 45 points short of the Australian total of 3,605. Hood — and his partner — can still strike gold in the singles.

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Dobson bans Viagra prescriptions on NHS

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

DOCTORS have been ordered not to prescribe the anti-impotence drug Viagra on the NHS. Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, said yesterday that Viagra "could prove a serious drain on the NHS" and that if there was a rush on the drug other patients could be denied the treatment they needed.

expected to be given its licence in Europe this week, possibly today. GPs will then be able to prescribe it, but only on a private prescription.

The approval follows a three-month period in which supply arrangements and guidelines to control prescriptions were supposed to have been worked out. Mr Dobson's letter makes it clear that, despite the delay since the drug was given the scientific all-clear by the European Medicines Evaluation Agency, the Health Department has been unable to come up with prescription guidelines.

Mr Dobson said yesterday he would seek further expert advice and would have more discussions with Pfizer. "I expect definitive guidance will be issued in the next few weeks," he said. In his letter he said the ban on NHS prescrib-

ing did not mean that ministers had already made up their minds about the drug.

Viagra is being banned to save money. The diamond-shaped blue pill helps seven out of 10 impotent men to have sex, and offers for the first time a simple remedy for an age-old malady. Previous drugs have been more awkward or uncomfortable to use, resulting in a rush for Viagra as soon as it was licensed in the US in March.

It has also been linked to the deaths of 69 men in the US, 46 of which were due to heart trouble. Pfizer insists that GPs are competent to diagnose impotence, while urologists have resisted any suggestions that they be used as "gatekeepers" to control prescriptions of the drug.

Dr Ian Bogle, Chairman of the BMA Council, said he regretted the postponement of a decision on NHS prescriptions because the publicity surrounding the drug had increased expectations. "What is now required is a very clear decision from Ministers based on evidence and professional advice as soon as possible about Viagra's availability on the NHS, as this may have significant workload implications for doctors."

TALL STORIES AND A FEW HARD FACTS

THE hype over the stalled release of Viagra on the NHS has resulted in a flood of stories:

- Ronald Virag, a French fertility expert, said his reputation was being ruined by Viagra. He wants the makers to change its name or pay him compensation.
- Pills smuggled from America were sold in nightclub under the name Pote for up to £40 each.
- After being introduced in America in April, the pill was credited with reviving the Moonlight Bunnymen in Nevada, whose business is booming thanks to Viagra-kissed older clients.
- Ian and Joan Lyon, from Devon, tested the drug after completing they were not satisfied with love-making sessions lasting "just an hour".
- The Playboy tycoon Hugh Hefner, 72, said: "I heartily endorse it. The truth is it's the greatest recreational drug ever."
- Prisoners in Argentina claimed that plans to give them the Viagra was a government plot to kill them.
- Airline pilots in New Zealand were banned from taking Viagra because of possible side-effects, including blurred vision.
- A French restaurateur, Jean-Louis Galland, was forced to withdraw an "a la carte menu" featuring Viagra sauce after officials threatened legal action. Mr Galland said: "We did it to give pleasure to old men and their wives."
- Zoologists were investigating the possibility of using Viagra to tempt endangered species to eat in the mood for mating.
- One American chemist offered Viagra-fuelled holidays in Branson, Missouri, complete with medical check-ups and an optional trip to a performance by the Osmond Brothers.
- Elio Bert, the mayor of Boca Vista do Sul, a small town in Brazil, handed out free supplies in an effort to increase the dwindling population. Bert allegedly spent £21,000 of his budget on the drug.
- Taiwanese prostitute said she had killed a 70-year-old client because of his excessive sexual demands after taking two tablets.
- Four out of eight Viagra pills used as evidence during a dispute of the Israeli parliament's science committee disappeared during the session.

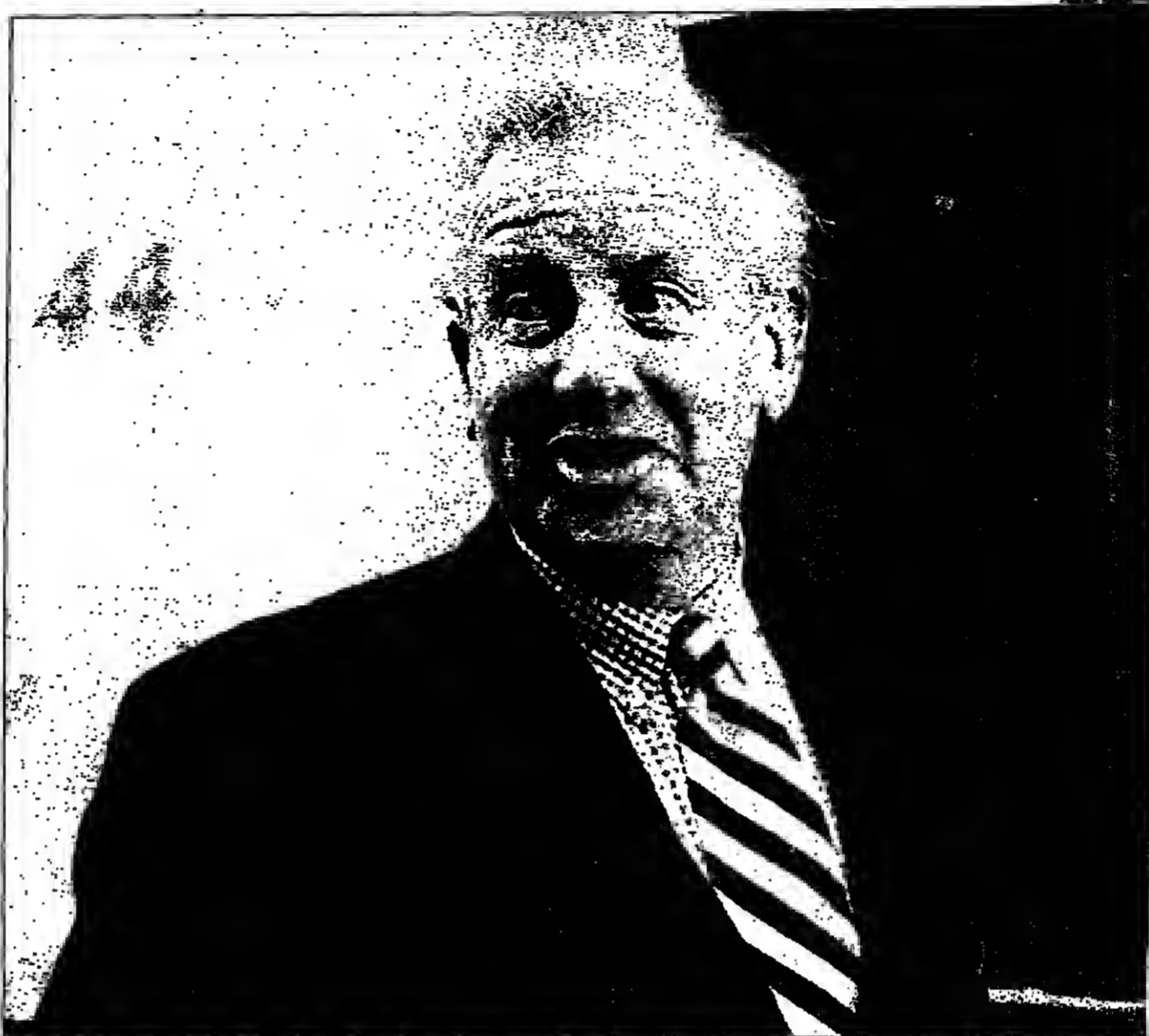
Brittle bone drug may prevent breast cancer

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

A DRUG introduced yesterday will help to protect older women against developing brittle bones and may also reduce the risks of heart disease and breast cancer.

Side-effects are described by the company as generally mild, and include hot flushes and leg cramps.

planned to compare Evista with tamoxifen, an established breast cancer drug which some trials have also shown has a preventive effect.



Rodney Ledward arriving for the General Medical Council hearing, where he denied incompetence and dishonesty

Councillor jailed over false claims

A former councillor who fiddled his expenses and falsified Labour Party accounts was jailed for eight months at Doncaster Crown Court.

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Doctor removed ovaries 'without patient's consent'

A GYNAECOLOGIST was accused yesterday of removing a woman's ovaries without her permission after telling her they were perfectly healthy.

Rodney Ledward, 58, a consultant from Folkestone, Kent, allegedly performed the hysterectomy with such incompetence that two litres of blood had to be removed from the woman's stomach and abdomen because of excessive bleeding.

Mr Ledward is accused of a range of failings from incompetence to dishonesty concerning 14 patients over seven years at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford, Kent, and private hospitals.

Five die in crash

Five people, including two children, were killed when a mini-bus taking pupils to a special needs school crashed head on with a lorry on a main road near Arklow, Co Wicklow. One other boy is critical, and another suffered serious injuries.

Murder remand

Alan Hobbs, 31, of no fixed abode, was remanded in custody by Windsor magistrates, accused of the murders of Gillian Harvey, 30, Ian Brown, 36, and Peter Smith, 31, whose bodies were found in Ms Harvey's flat in Slough, Berkshire, on September 3.

Capital record

A record number of people visited London last year. More than 28 million visited the capital, an increase of 10 per cent on 1996 thanks mainly to more domestic visitors.

End of weapon

The machete used by Horrett Campbell to attack children at a teddy bear's picnic at St Luke's Primary School in Blakenhall, Wolverhampton, in July 1996 has been destroyed by police. It was cut into pieces with an oxygen-lene torch and melted down.

Mummy's lads

Young men may boast of their laddish drink and girls lifestyle but a survey reveals that at heart they are really mummy's boys.

Test can detect early Alzheimer's

A NEW test for Alzheimer's disease can detect those at risk two years before they develop definitive symptoms.

No-show patients cost NHS £275m

THE Government is planning a campaign to encourage patients to turn up for their hospital appointments after it emerged that missed visits are costing the National Health Service more than a quarter of a billion pounds a year.

Patients failed to turn up for 5.5 million appointments out of a total of 40 million between 1996 and 1997, according to figures released by the Department of Health yesterday.

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Cruise Bar's for

Son's lover 'killed by his father'

AVON: ...

Mummy's lads

...

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Cruise hires the Bar's top gun for libel trial

By FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

GEORGE CARMAN, QC, may have fallen out of the million-a-year lawyers' club but he has clinched his position as QC of choice for the rich and famous.

The silver-tongued QC, known in the profession as "gorgeous George", has been hired by Nicole Kidman and Tom Cruise for a libel action they have lodged against the Express on Sunday.

The trial, listed for November, will see both film stars in the witness box in a courtroom encounter likely to match those of Imran Khan and Ian Botham or Richard Branson and G-Tech in popular appeal.

Cruise and Kidman are suing Express Newspapers over an article in the magazine section on Sunday, October 5, 1997. It concerned the couple's motives for marriage and the adoption of their two children.

Mr Carman was omitted from the latest survey of top-earning QCs, known as the "million-a-year club", the top 15 barristers said by Chambers & Partners new directory of the legal profession to be grossing £1 million a year.

However, the view among some lawyers is that if Mr Carman is not earning a million, he must be very close to it. This year alone he

Frances Gibb on the film star's choice of the lawyer they call gorgeous George

successfully acted for the Barclay brothers in their appeal against a refusal of licence applications, adding an estimated £50 million to the value of the Ritz Hotel.

His fee for that has been estimated at anything up to £500,000, and in the Branson versus G-Tech case he is thought to have earned £250,000. Also this year was the Marks & Spencer win against Granada Television over a programme alleging exploitation of child labour.

But the Kidman/Cruise trial will no longer see Mr Carman pitched against his old adversary, Charles Gray, QC. Mr Gray has just been promoted to the High Court bench.

The trial is set down for a week. In the meantime, Mr Carman is turning his hand to telling business leaders how to "find the truth", with a glimpse into how he approaches cross-examination, detects lies and traps the

dishonest. Next month he is advising 300 businessmen on the art of detecting lies and fraud in business at a seminar to be held by the Maxima Group plc, which specialises in prevention, investigation and recovery of losses caused by fraud, negligence or error.

Kidman, 31, and Cruise, 36, and their adopted children Isabella, five, and Connor, three, live in Central London where privacy is easier for them to find than on the other side of the Atlantic.

Kidman is starting to sell-out audiences in *The Blue Room* at the Donmar Warehouse Theatre, London, for which she is earning £250 a week rather than the £5 million she can collect for a film.

The couple recently finished shooting *Eyes Wide Shut* for Stanley Kubrick at Pinewood, in London, a tale of jealousy and sexual obsession. Cruise previously starred in *Top Gun* and *Mission Impossible*.



The Prince of Wales at St Mark's Primary School, Brighton. He was shocked at the dearth of books in its library.

Prince's plea for estate children

By ALEXANDRA FREAN

THE Prince of Wales appealed yesterday to Britain's business leaders to help to regenerate rundown housing estates and improve education opportunities for the children who live on them.

Stealing a march on the Prime Minister, who is today due to unveil a £800 million rescue package for the worst estates, the Prince called on the private sector to take a direct stake in community projects by giving supplies, cash and free professional advice and support.

During a visit to St Mark's Primary School on the Whitehawk estate in Brighton, the Prince said that putting more resources into primary education was the best way of breaking the cycle of poverty and underachievement.

After sitting in on a reading lesson with a class of 10-year-olds, the Prince was shocked to discover that the school's budget was so stretched that there were hardly any books in its library.

Son's lover 'killed by his father'

By PAUL WILKINSON

A YOUNG woman was lured to her death on a river towpath by her boyfriend's father on the pretext of sorting out her relationship with his son, it was alleged yesterday.

Unknown to Stephen Hughes, his walk with Rachel Barraclough, 18, across the centre of Wakefield to the bridge over the river Calder was recorded on closed-circuit TV cameras, a jury at Leeds Crown Court was told. The video showed Mr Hughes, 47, and the girl vanish off camera and then him reappear alone almost two hours later.

Miss Barraclough's body was discovered 24 hours later, about 20 minutes' walk from the point where they were last seen. She had died shortly after she went out of view from camera, the court heard. She had been sexually assaulted, stabbed four times and had her throat cut. She had been going out with Mr Hughes' son Carl, 21, for eight months.

Mr Hughes, a former miner from Wakefield who worked as a chef, denies the murder on September 5 last year. He was arrested five days later but refused to discuss whether it was him on the recording, Paul Worsley, QC, for the prosecution, said. The trial continues.

Murder trial nurse 'was a battered wife'

FROM DAVID ADAMS
IN MIAMI

JURY selection was due to begin yesterday in the Florida trial of Helen Cummings, a pregnant British nurse, who is accused of murdering her unfaithful American husband on Valentine's Day.

If found guilty, Mrs Cummings, 33, from Preston, faces a maximum of 30 years in jail but her lawyers will argue that she shot her husband four times as a consequence of battered wives' syndrome and post-natal depression.

Mrs Cummings allegedly killed her husband, Tyler Cummings, 30, on February 14 as he lay in bed, moments after she had discovered photographs of him with a naked woman. Days before his death, Mrs Cummings confided to friends that she suspected her husband was having an affair.

According to her lawyers, Mrs Cummings was trapped in an abusive relationship with a husband who threatened her with a gun on more than one occasion and tried to choke her when she said she might leave him.

The couple, married in 1995, also have a one-year-old son who is living with Mrs Cummings' parents in Preston.

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Claire Cater at home with Jasper after his ordeal

Ravine fall baby saved with a smile

By HELEN JOHNSTONE

A BABY survived a 300ft plunge down a French ravine in a car after his father, who had parked to take a photograph, saw the vehicle rolling down the slope through the down the camera.

Nigel Ryan, 40, watched helplessly as it gathered speed before hurtling down the ravine by the Pont de Terenez, a vine by the suspension bridge near Crozon, Brittany.

The graphic designer from Ardingly, West Sussex, clambered down the ravine to find his four-month-old son Jasper smiling at him from his baby seat with nothing more than two scratches to his cheek. He said yesterday: "I can't put into words what was going through my mind when I saw the car disappear over the

edge. One minute I was taking pictures, the next I was running down the ravine after my baby."

Mr Ryan, 40, and his partner, Claire Cater, 35, had stopped to take some holiday snaps at the notorious accident blackspot. Mr Ryan had lined up Ms Cater in the viewfinder only to see his 14-year-old Trooper and baby hurtling towards the ravine.

He said locals had dubbed the incident "le miracle" because previously no one whose vehicle had gone down the ravine had survived. Jean Pierre Ladez, the mechanic who recovered the car, said: "I have seen lots of accidents at this spot and I can tell you I have never seen anything as miraculous as this."



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The Times 15/9/98



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Milestone as old foes sit for first Assembly

By MARTIN FLETCHER, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

AFTER 76 years of strife, Northern Ireland made a momentous new beginning yesterday when its all-party Assembly met for the first time in the Stormont chamber where Unionists monopolised power until London imposed direct rule in 1972.

Standing where James Craig, the Province's first Prime Minister, once boasted of heading a "Protestant Parliament and a Protestant State", David Trimble, Northern Ireland's new First Minister, hailed a "pluralist parliament for a pluralist people in which all of us work together for the benefit of everyone".

"It's another historic day," Seamus Mallon, the deputy First Minister, said as the Assembly's 108 Unionist, nationalist, loyalist and republican

members gathered in the chamber. They sat in a horseshoe shape on blue leather seats, the 58-strong Unionist bloc facing 42 nationalists with eight non-aligned members in between, in a sight unthinkable just a few months ago. Sinn Fein's Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness sat directly opposite the Rev Ian Paisley and just a few seats to the right of former loyalist terrorists.

At one point Mr Adams — the only member in shirt-sleeves — said he wanted to "make friends" with Dr Paisley. The Democratic Unionist party leader scoffed at the idea, but John Taylor, the Ulster Unionist Party's deputy leader, illustrated the ineptness in relations between his party and republicans when he made a joke about the

Commonwealth Games gold medal for shooting which Northern Ireland won yesterday.

"I'm glad to see Mr Adams laughing," he said. "It was with legal firearms."

In the canteen old foes jostled for position in the lunch queue, and the DUP's William McCrea was spotted leaning over Mr Adams to collect his cutlery.

The morning's opening session followed a four-minute



Northern Ireland Assembly members meet for the first time at Stormont. David Trimble, the First Minister, called it a "pluralist parliament"

Commonwealth Games gold medal for shooting which Northern Ireland won yesterday.

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The morning's opening session followed a four-minute

silence for the victims of the Omagh bomb. There were then disputes over what flag should fly over Stormont, over the use of Irish in the chamber, and the provision of a press bar. Three UUP members elected as independents opposed to the Good Friday accord announced the formation of a new Unionist party, to be called the United Unionist Assembly Party.

But in the afternoon the Assembly turned its attention

to the task of how to govern such a deeply-divided province, and a sense of moment returned. Mr Trimble spoke of "embarking on one of the most novel and challenging journeys in the annals of democratic arrangements". He welcomed those crossing the bridge from terror to democracy, but warned Sinn Fein that without IRA disarmament there could be no trust and set no date for the establishment of the new executive.

PRISON OFFICERS' PAY-OFF ROW

MO MOWLAM is dashing with the Treasury over redundancy money for prison officers who lose their jobs because of the peace process. (James Lardale writes). The Northern Ireland Secretary has asked for extra cash to pay for the flood of redundancies expected as a result of

the prisoner releases under the Good Friday agreement. But the Treasury is understood to have insisted that the money come from the Northern Ireland Office budgets. Prison Service officials estimate that up to 1,000 officers could lose their jobs over the next two years.

Lawrence father in tears at TUC conference

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

THE father of the murdered teenager Stephen Lawrence broke down yesterday as he told a hushed TUC Conference that he feared his son's killers would never be imprisoned.

Neville Lawrence, who has waged a long campaign for justice, said: "I don't think anyone is going to be prosecuted or do time for the death of my son and that pains me."

Mr Lawrence thanked the union movement for its help when he had few supporters.

Although he said that he was hoping for a miracle, he conceded that the prospects of a conviction had almost vanished. More than 1,300 people at the Blackpool conference gave him a standing ovation.

He said he still thought that Stephen might come home when he heard his doorbell.

He added: "When your child goes through the door, sometimes you have to stop your breath and wait for them to come back."

John Edmunds, TUC president, gave Mr Lawrence a £1,000 cheque towards his campaign.

Business, page 27, 28

Man 'gave lover £1.6m because he was desperate'

By JOANNA BALE

A WOMAN who is being sued by her former lover for the return of £1.6 million told the High Court yesterday that the money was a gift in return for her complying with his abnormal sexual demands.

Jacqui Samuelson, 40, a former dancer with the Royal Ballet who has two children, said that Gary Grande, a millionaire businessman, was impotent and desperate to keep her because she made "special efforts" to satisfy his needs. Mrs Samuelson said: "He is unable to engage in normal sexual intercourse but we slept together in the same bed and I tried to comfort his physical needs. He made suggestions during our relationship that he would like to watch me having sexual relations with other women, but I ignored him in this respect."

"I believe it was because I made special efforts to satisfy him that he was so generous to me, and so desperate to hold on to me, as to give me this money."

"In my judgment, he is a bizarre character who behaves in bizarre ways.

"I believe this accounts for

his generosity in making this gift to me, which he has later come to regret once he saw I was moving away from him."

Mr Grande, 58, alleges that the £1.6 million sent to Mrs Samuelson, as the nominal shareholder of one of his companies, was meant for investment. However, he says, she kept it and started diverting it to her own account and to her new lover, her accountant, who has since repaid her. Mr Grande denies claims by Mrs Samuelson that the money transfer was either a gift or part of a tax evasion scheme.

Mrs Samuelson, of Hampstead, said that there had never been any possibility of them getting married. Mr Grande knew she was already married to a homosexual whom she relied on to look after her daughters should anything happen to her.

She said that after a trip to see Mr Grande in the Bahamas, where he was living as a tax exile, she walked out on him after being frightened by his drunken behaviour. She flew to Los Angeles and began an affair with her accountant. The case continues.

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Heads call for GCSE in leadership skills

Schools put exam success ahead of initiative, writes John O'Leary

PRESSURE for good academic results is forcing schools to abandon activities designed to produce important leadership skills, a group of state and independent school head teachers claimed yesterday.

A report sponsored by an expedition company and backed by the Secondary Heads Association called for a new leadership qualification to be given the same status as a GCSE examination. The group, chaired by Nicholas Bomford, headmaster of Harrow School, said the subject should be included in the review of the national curriculum due to be completed next year.

The 83-page report, which draws on leadership schemes run in schools, says that the "excessive" pressure to shine in examination league tables has damaged extra-curricular activities. Funding shortages have also helped to deny opportunities to pupils.

The ten-strong working party found that many families could not afford the costs associated with the Duke of Edinburgh Award, the best-known leadership training scheme. Many local authorities were closing their outdoor activity centres, which provided an economical alternative for many schools.

Even the Combined Cadet Force, which still thrives in many independent schools, was threatened by successive

defence reviews, the report said. Mr Bomford said he hoped that the 300 cadet forces would survive intact but there was little prospect of extending the activity to more schools.

The report, *Developing Leadership in Schools*, says that opportunities for expeditions, projects and field work "have never been greater" for some schools and pupils. It calls for business sponsorship to help young people from poor backgrounds joining expeditions.

However, the authors cite more mundane activities such as becoming a prefect or raising money for charity as valuable contributions to the

leadership process. The report calls for Ofsted to include pupils' experience of leadership and development of responsibility in its inspection of schools and for individual successes to be included in a revised National Record of Achievement.

Among the schemes featured by Michael Duffy, the former headmaster who wrote the report, was the award made by the Chase High School, in Malvern, Worcestershire, which requires pupils to master 20 personal skills, from punctuality and a willingness to accept advice to attendance on a residential course and performing in a team, drama production or

musical event. Charles Rigby, the chairman of World Challenge Expeditions, which sponsored the report, said: "We believe there is widespread concern about aspects of educational life that are missing. We recognise that there is not a lot of money to spend on education, but we have spent a lot of time investigating how money can be raised."

The report was welcomed by Sandy Adamson, head of the Government's Standards and Effectiveness Unit. A dozen pupils and teachers on a World Challenge expedition told yesterday how their hotel was reduced to rubble just after they had left it to eat lunch outside. The group, from Trinity School, in Nottingham, survived an earthquake registering 7.1 on the Richter scale, which injured scores of people and saw cliffs collapse into the sea.

The earthquake happened in Canoa, Ecuador, where the school party completed a month-long expedition, mountain-trekking and doing voluntary work in the rain forests. Abigail Daly, 17, said: "We didn't know what was happening because none of us had ever been in an earthquake before. We had all been expecting a bit of danger and excitement but nothing like this."

A spokesman said no one from the expedition was hurt in the earthquake.

Protesting tunnellers build link to Europe

By Helen Johnstone

BRITAIN'S most successful green protesters are passing on their skills in tunnelling and treehouse-building to their European counterparts at a camp designed to beat the bailiffs.

In return, veterans of Britain's many anti-road protests are learning more about stopping nuclear convoys. The pool of international expertise is being shared at the camp in a forest in Staffordshire where a group of protesters have constructed a tunnel fortress on the proposed route of Britain's first toll motorway.

Protesters, who want to stop construction of the 27-mile Birmingham Northern Relief Road to link the M42 at Coleshill, Warwickshire, and the M6 at Cannock, Staffordshire, claim that bailiffs will face defences that could take them a month to break.

Campaigners from Germany, Poland, France and Sweden hope to learn similar skills to halt developments which they say threaten the environment in their own countries, such as a proposed motorway from Dresden to Prague.

Frank, 20, who arrived from Dresden two weeks ago, said: "Already I have learnt that tunnels are the best form of defence and the British protesters are the best at building them. It has been very good for me to see how difficult the British are making it for the authorities."



Gillian Howard, whose generosity was inspired by Frederick Kempf's playing

Talented young pianist given £74,000 Steinway

By Dalva Alberge Arts Correspondent

AN OUTSTANDING young British musician so hard up that he had to sell his own piano has been given a £74,000 Steinway by a benefactor inspired by his playing at this year's Tchaikovsky competition.

Frederick Kempf, 20, is a student at the Royal Academy of Music whose Principal says he is one of the most talented musicians to have studied there. Since he sold his instrument two years ago he has been "struggling to stay afloat" and renting the smallest piano he could find, an upright for £50 a month, he said yesterday.

He was "astounded" by the generosity of his benefactor, Gillian Howard, who was once bought a Steinway by her parents. "Having a Steinway is my dream," he said.

Ms Howard, an employment lawyer who runs her own practice, was unaware of his plight. She made the gift in memory of her parents, Margaret and Alexander Howard. She said that her mother, a physiotherapist



Mr Kempf and the rented upright in his flat

who had trained as a barrister, was a wonderful pianist. Her parents died young and she sold the Steinway.

Ms Howard had been inspired by the way that Mr Kempf wowed audiences at the Tchaikovsky Piano Competition in Moscow. Although he did not win he was given standing ovations.

Although the chairman of the prize, Tikhon Khrennikov, singled him out for particular praise, he came third after two Moscow-trained Russians, Curtis Price, Principal of the Royal

Academy of Music, said that the Tchaikovsky competition had become notorious for its decisions.

However, recording contracts and recital offers have flowed in since then. Among various concerts, Mr Kempf will be performing Chopin, Granados and Liszt at the Wigmore Hall, London, on October 23—a lunchtime recital that will be broadcast live on Radio 3.

Now Mr Kempf has just one problem—the Steinway does not fit into his tiny flat in West Hampstead, London. "I'm trying to work out where to put it," he said.

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One in five cars fails emission tests

By Arthur Leathley Transport Correspondent

ONE in five cars fails tests for illegal levels of exhaust emissions, it was announced yesterday as a campaign was launched to cut pollution.

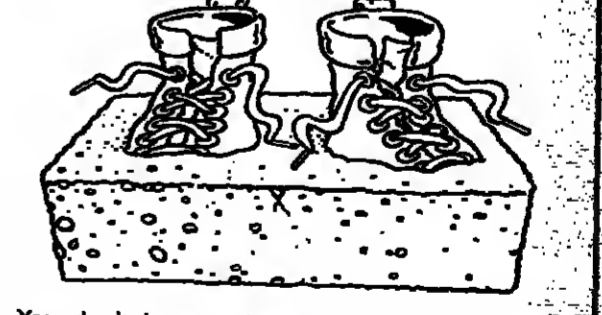
In some cases cars that are only three years old do not meet acceptable standards, prompting ministers to ask motorists to voluntarily test their vehicles or risk a £40 fine. The fine system is being trialled in seven towns and cities across Britain. Local authorities in the pilot areas can impose penalties, using the money to fund the police tests. They must also offer free voluntary tests.

Results from the trials of roadside penalties and voluntary tests are almost identical. Eighteen per cent of cars stopped by police fail the test, and seventeen per cent of vehicles tested voluntarily fall below legal levels.

Cars owned by young drivers are most likely to fail. The voluntary tests finish next month, and the roadside tests end at the end of the year, when ministers will decide whether to extend the schemes nationally.

The *Stop Fuming!* campaign was launched yesterday by the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders to encourage drivers to service their vehicles and check exhausts. Free checks are available in Birmingham, Bristol, Canterbury, Glasgow, Middlesbrough, Swansea and Westminster. Leicester, Nottingham and Derby are also offering free tests, although they are not involved in the roadside test pilot project.

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Hague offers business an e-mail olive branch

By NICHOLAS WOOD

WILLIAM HAGUE will begin his biggest charm offensive this week aimed at wooing back British businessmen to the Tory cause. The party leader is writing to 7,000 captains of industry inviting them to sign up to a two-way computerised link with party headquarters.

ment decisions. According to senior Tory officials, the aim of the e-mail link-up is to reclaim one of the Tory "heartlands" ceded to Labour at the election. The business liaison unit set up by Mr Hague earlier this year has contacts with 900 firms.

By keeping in regular touch with directors and consulting them on their views, Mr Hague hopes to restore the traditional close links with British industry and commerce badly strained under the previous Government. Tory officials said that after Mr Hague's decision to ballot his party on his opposition to a European single currency, they had had more than 100 messages of support from company chiefs.

of the main political developments relevant to the boardroom. Items covered by the service include the Bank of England's decisions on interest rates, the crisis in manufacturing industry and the transport White Paper. Recipients of the free service are being promised that they will be among the first to hear the Tory response to Gordon Brown's next Budget.

He will host a reception for businessmen on the first evening of the conference and working lunches and dinners with senior Shadow Cabinet members are planned for the following days.

gained significantly at the last general election from the close links with industry and commerce forged in opposition. The spectacle of businessmen and Labour politicians sharing platforms at stage-managed events helped to reassure voters that it was safe to support Mr Blair.

ing them. According to weekend reports, Labour stands to make £300,000 at its conference from sponsorship deals and £200-a-ticket dinners.

Call to replace jury trial for complex fraud

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE head of the Serious Fraud Office yesterday called for an end to jury trial in complex frauds and its replacement with a judge and lay assessors.

Her comments come as the Home Office analyses responses to a consultation paper which outlines several alternatives to trial by jury in complex fraud cases.

"The process of trial by jury has simply become too unwieldy," Ms Wright told the 16th International Symposium on Economic Crime at Jesus College, Cambridge.

She also called for what she described as a kind of "one-stop shopping" in fraud cases in which criminal judges would be given some of the powers of regulators, enabling them to close down fraudulently run businesses, to make a banning order blacklisting them from all commercial activities and to freeze a company's assets before criminal charges were laid.

The time had come to consider replacing juries in the most complex and lengthy cases. This was not because too many defendants were acquitted. "We have, after all, secured convictions in every trial we have prosecuted in the past two years."

Specialist assessors could function as expert witnesses but their knowledge could not be tested, she said. They might be "continually feeding" the judge (a layman himself so far as commercial or financial knowledge was concerned) market knowledge which was out-of-date.

Nor was it because juries were unable to understand complex commercial transactions. But some cases required jurors to demonstrate and understand allegations involving a complex series of transactions which had taken place over a period of months or years.

She added that it should be for the judge, after hearing from prosecution and defence, to decide whether a case was suitable for jury trial or for the alternative mode of trial she is suggesting.



Whitehall link to Downing Street: the elegant circular courtyard where Treasury ministers park



Lister collection: former Chancellors, from left, Hugh Childers, Lord Randolph Churchill and Chamberlain

Treasury opens its doors - and art - to public

By VALERIE ELLIOTT, WHITEHALL EDITOR

THE Chancellor of the Exchequer's private office is to be open to the public for the first time as part of a series of Heritage Open Days.

Day. Its historical significance these days is rather lost to Treasury officials today, who in typical bureaucratic fashion refer to it as Room 29.

Visitors will be able to walk through the main entrance on Whitehall and up the stone staircase to the Chancellor's inner sanctum. Armchair economists will even be allowed to sit on Gordon Brown's modern pale pink high-backed chair to mull over the nation's finances.

A centrepiece of the exhibition is a 17th-century oil painting, *Whitehall Palace from the Park*, by Hendrick Danckeris, which has been borrowed from the ante-room outside the main Cabinet Room at Downing Street.

It is from this long, narrow oak-panelled room with contemporary paintings by Graham Sutherland that the Chancellor has taken key decisions relating to the Budget and the comprehensive spending review.

As visitors leave the building they will also be able to walk through the great circular courtyard which links the Treasury via a series of carriage entrances to No 10. This was the route famously used by former Tory Chancellor, Lord Lamont, to escape reporters on the day Britain pulled out of the European Exchange Rate Mechanism.

But visitors looking for the human side of the "Iron Chancellor" will be disappointed, for Mr Brown keeps no personal clutter in the office and has no photograph of his longtime girlfriend, Sarah Macaulay, on display.

The Treasury tour, this weekend is expected to be the first stop on a tour of Whitehall which will also include the Cabinet Office, where the remains of Henry VIII's tennis court will be on display, and the sumptuous state rooms at the Foreign Office.

There is a firm reminder of his Scottish roots, however, with a painting called *Peebleshire Landscape* by the artist William George Gillies.

Last night Mr Brown said the Treasury move was an "important" step. "Many of us who live and work around Whitehall grow to take this part of our heritage almost for granted. It deserves to be recognised and seen more widely for the human perspective it gives to the heart of Government through the centuries," he said.

Also part of the event will be an exhibition of pictures last shown by the Treasury 50 years ago. Put together by R.A. Lister, a former Librarian of the Board of Trade, the collection of watercolours, engravings and newspaper cuttings has been set up in a grand conference room with a balcony overlooking Whitehall where Winston Churchill addressed the crowds on VE

September 19 and 20 from 10am to 5pm.

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Police forces 'may have to lose 5,000 officers'

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

POLICE forces will have to leave thousands of jobs unfilled to meet new budget controls, senior commanders said yesterday.

At least six forces are already drawing up plans to halt recruiting and not replace officers who retire. The Metropolitan Police has cut 400 places in the past year and more economies are predicted. In all up to 5,000 officers could be lost from the total strength of 126,000 in England and Wales within two years.

The situation comes after the Government's comprehensive spending review and the announcement that chief constables will have to show greater efficiency and economies in the next two years or lose agreed budget increases.

The risk of reduced numbers was highlighted yesterday by leaders of the Police Superintendents' Association which is holding its annual national conference in Bristol today. Jack Straw is to speak at the conference tomorrow when his leadership will raise its anxieties with him.

Yesterday Chief Superintendent Peter Gammon, the association president, said that at least six forces - including large urban and smaller rural forces - were considering manpower cuts. He said: "We think the figures could involve thousands: a couple of thousand at least and it could be more."

Mr Gammon said the decision on efficiency was for chief constables but there were other ways of cutting costs apart from simply reducing numbers. He said he did not think the Home Secretary would want to see numbers cut and he would be looking for other ways to achieve savings.

Chief Superintendent Des Parkinson, the association's national secretary, said that forces have not used the case provided to fulfill John Major's pledge several years ago to put 5,000 extra officers on the street. Forces were already starting with a shortfall in numbers before fresh cuts.

The conference will also debate whether new controls should be placed on the police when they use special surveillance equipment. Speakers including John Wadham, the director of the civil rights group Liberty, will address the conference but Mr Gammon said the association did not want to see more restraints.

At the moment the decision is made by senior commanders and can be tested in the courts on a case-by-case basis. If a legal framework with a binding code of practice is introduced police fear that lawyers would look for loopholes to stop evidence getting into court and criminals would avoid justice.

Blair may host G8 crisis talks

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

BRITAIN is likely to host an emergency summit of the world's leading industrial nations to discuss the economic crisis in the Far East and Russia.

Tony Blair, present chairman of the G8 group, is consulting fellow leaders about holding the meeting in London over the next few weeks. Last night Gordon Brown flew to Japan for talks on the Asian financial collapse.

The Chancellor is resisting domestic demands to relax his fight against inflation, while being responsible for co-ordinating action against the threat of global recession.

Mr Blair is expected today to brief President Yeltsin over the telephone on yesterday's talks in London between G8 officials.

Prima kov pledge, page 12
Richard Overly, page 13
Business, page 21

Many MPs want taxes run by EU

By RICHARD WATSON

A SUBSTANTIAL number of Labour MPs believe that Westminster should surrender control over a range of taxes to Brussels.

More than four out of ten think that VAT and company tax should be harmonised across the European Union, according to a survey.

An even greater number, more than 55 per cent, support giving Brussels responsibility for setting environmental taxes and excise duty. Seventeen per cent go the whole way and believe that even personal taxes should be taken away from Westminster and set centrally. However, 37 per cent believe that the disadvantages of EU membership outweigh the benefits.

The findings, in a survey by Nottingham Trent University, also reveal that 25 per cent of Tory MPs believe that Britain should pull out of the EU.

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Modern show to replace Royal Tournament

THE Royal Tournament is to be axed after 118 years in favour of a more modern display of the work of the Services, because of falling audience figures and rising costs. Despite having introduced the *Gladiators* television game-show to spice up the traditional programme of marching bands, tri-service spectaculars and the famous field gun competition, the Ministry of Defence has been left with acres of empty seats.

Acres of empty seats prompt updating of 118-year-old event, reports Michael Evans

The Royal Tournament will be held for the last time at Earls Court next summer and for the millennium it will be replaced by an event based on a different concept under a new name, likely to be outside at Horse Guards Parade, which will allow for a military flypast.

The future of the tournament will be decided by an MoD management committee on which all three Services will be represented. The Royal Family is also expected to be consulted and the royal patronage continued.

George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, said yesterday: "The Royal Tournament has served us well for a great many years but as we approach the millennium it is timely for us to take a fresh look at this traditional event. This is a new beginning, not an end, of the Royal Tournament and my aim is to make it more relevant and modern,

whilst retaining an element of pageantry."

The Royal Tournament has been criticised for many years for attracting dwindling interest from the public but also because of the increasing pressure on the three Armed Forces, whose manpower has been reduced by 30 per cent since 1990. But despite rumours of its imminent demise in recent years, the Service chiefs were keen to preserve the Royal Tournament in some form, partly because it helped to boost recruiting.

The tri-service show in July 2000 will be a special event for the millennium. If it is successful it will point the way to new format for the future.

The MoD said that it was considering staging a military tango and a *son et lumière* event but Earls Court was no longer regarded as a suitable location. One idea is to create a "time tunnel", displaying the past, present and future from

a military perspective, a spokesman said. It was likely the new format would be given a different name.

The first show, called the Grand Military Tournament and Assault at Arms, was strictly for the Army and opened on June 22, 1880 at the Agricultural Hall in Islington, North London. It consisted of competitions designed to encourage skill at arms.

In 1882, the first display consisting of a musical ride by the 1st Life Guards, was included in the programme. Two years later Queen Victoria became patron and gave permission for the royal prefix to be added to the title. The Royal Navy first took part in 1897, and in 1906 the tournament moved to Olympia where it continued until 1950, with interruptions during the world wars. The tournament moved to Earls Court in 1950.

This year tournament attracted 201,000 people over the two weeks, compared with 204,000 the previous year. Earls Court seats 18,000 a night.

Hugh Scrimgeour, head of Earls Court Olympia, said: "We have been aware that for several years the Ministry of Defence has been considering the future of this great event due to increasing constraints on service manpower." He planned to make sure that the last tournament next summer would be "the best ever".



The cast of *Frasier*: the Seattle sitcom made television history after breaking an Emmy awards record jointly held by *Cheers*

Neurosis is the winning formula

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

A COMEDY about a hopelessly neurotic psychiatrist made television history at the weekend as America's gaudiest medium congratulated itself on its first half century at the fiftieth annual Emmy Awards. *Frasier*, the unlikely hit about two Seattle brothers who are obsessed with the opera and their own self-esteem, won its fifth consecutive Emmy for a comedy series during a marathon awards show.

The *Frasier* award broke a record last equalled by *Cheers*, the seminal sitcom set in a downtown Boston watering hole that spawned the character of Dr Frasier Crane, one of the brothers in *Frasier*. The series also took two major

acting prizes, with Kelsey Grammer winning for the third time for his performance in the title role and a stunned David Hyde Pierce chosen as best supporting actor in a comedy. Hearing his name announced, he said, was "like a train wreck".

British stars have featured prominently in past Emmy ceremonies but went home empty-handed on Sunday night. Jane Seymour and Tracey Ullman were among the disappointed nominees; squeezed out by Christine Lahti of *Chicago Hope* in the drama category and a triumphant Helen Hunt in the contest for best lead actress in a comedy. By winning for her role in *Mad About You*,

Ms Hunt, who also starred in the film *As Good As It Gets*, became the first actress to win an Emmy and an Oscar in the same year.

It was a night when three pillars of American network television were snubbed — *Seinfeld*, *ER* and *The X-Files* missed out in all the major categories — but television itself was earnestly hailed as a pioneering force for good.

Ellen DeGeneres, whose eponymous sitcom has been cancelled by ABC since its ratings peaked when she and her character came out as lesbians, extolled the medium as "a way to feel represented, to feel validated and say, 'that's me, there's someone else like me out there!'"



Hunt won an Emmy and an Oscar this year

Hemingway's notes for a Hollywood novel are auction's star lot

By JOHN SHAW



Hemingway: accused friends of "selling out"

NOTES written by Ernest Hemingway for a book about Hollywood in the 1930s have come to light at a small auction house in West Sussex. The project had a working title of *Hollywood Express* and the unpublished material is contained in a pink folder signed jokingly "Dr Ernest Hemingstein". It includes illustrations believed to be by Martha Gellhorn, one of Hemingway's four wives.

The material was compiled when his friends were, as he put it, "selling out to Hollywood". Most of

the pieces relate to stars of the period such as Nelson Eddy, Jeanette MacDonald and Clark Gable. The folder is part of a huge archive of largely unknown and personal letters, photographs and other Hemingway memorabilia, including his typewriter, being sold by Dentham's, in Warrham, on September 30.

Hemingway, winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1954, shot himself in a fit of depression in 1961. One of his greatest books, *For Whom the Bell Tolls*, was inspired by his experiences reporting the Spanish Civil War. He retained a

lifelong affection for the country and the items on sale were owned by Ricardo Sire, a Spanish businessman who had a large international social circle and worked for US intelligence. They are being sold by his son, Jay Sire, a businessman in Madrid.

Hemingway was known for his macho lifestyle and love of bullfighting. One of the star lots is a silk jacket given to the writer by the matador Manolete, who wore it in the bullring and presented it to Hemingway in 1945 on VE Day.

The collection evokes the hedonism of postwar international café

society. There is, for example, a policeman's helmet that was knocked off an officer's head and stolen during drunken horseplay in Gibraltar. It is signed by Maria Callas, Clark Gable, Errol Flynn and Gary Cooper.

High bids are expected for Hemingway's black Remington portable typewriter, stamped with the initials "EH" and used when he was a correspondent during the Second World War. The typewriter was later given to Ava Gardner, who used it to write poetry at the home of Robert Graves in Majorca.

There is also a selection of vintage

clothing that Graves gave Ms Gardner to wear in one of her films. It includes a kimono once owned by Lawrence of Arabia and given to Graves by Churchill in 1932.

There is a shotgun that was given as a Christmas present to Ms Gardner when she was filming *Mogambo* with Clark Gable in Kenya in 1952. At the time she was married to Frank Sinatra and there are photographs of the couple in the auction together with one of the actress's black bras in a frame.

The collection includes signed copies of *A Farewell to Arms*, *For Whom the Bell Tolls* and *To Have*

And Have Not and a gastronomic guide to France, described in the catalogue as "Martha Gellhorn's bible". It is inscribed and signed "Ritz, Paris, 1945, to Ricardo and Betty. No better hostess could offer more, thank you for having me, good and bad — please give our love to everybody in Madrid. Own times have been so full and fine. With very best wishes, Ernest Hemingway."

There is also a Louis Vuitton document case, the interior of which the Spanish surrealist Salvador Dali painted with an exotic scene during Christmas 1960. It is sold with a certificate of authentication.

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Primakov pledges to keep reforms



Russia's newly appointed Prime Minister is flexing his muscles, writes Anna Blundy

YEVGENI PRIMAKOV, Russia's new Prime Minister, asserted his new-found authority yesterday, consolidating his Government and telling ministers that Russia's reform programme would go ahead, but its first priority would be the Russian people.

He tried to allay fears about the continuing economic crisis and assured his new Cabinet that their jobs were secure. It was his first day in his new job after the Duma, Russia's communist-dominated lower house of parliament, finally voted him in as Prime Minister on Friday.

In response to his appointment, the rouble perked up to 8.649 to the dollar and Muscovites took to the streets to enjoy the Indian summer. Mr Primakov said the payment of wage arrears and pensions would be his main priority. How he intends to fulfil his promises remains to be seen.

"He doesn't have a dime," one Western economist said. But Mr Primakov has made clear that although reforms would not be stopped dead in their tracks, there would be a change of emphasis in economic policy. The summer side of that will be increased efforts to prop up the crumbling welfare state, but however well intentioned that may be, it is likely to result in hyperinflation and



Yevgeni Primakov in his office in Moscow on his first full day as Russian Prime Minister yesterday. He also presided at the first meeting of his new Cabinet

the death-knell of the brief economic boom.

Rumours that the Government and the Central Bank have printed four billion roubles to ease the economic crisis have been denied by the men Mr Primakov has placed in senior economic appointments, Yuri Masyukov, former head of the State Planning Committee in Soviet times, and Viktor Geraschenko, now head of the Central Bank for the second time in his long career.

The new Government's constant insistence that unpaid wages are its main priority must have allowed pensioners and state employees to bask

more happily in the sunshine this weekend, and even Western observers are admitting that there might now be a glimmer of hope for Russia.

One thing worrying the West and many Russian reformers is the number of old-style Communists being appointed to Mr Primakov's Government. Most notable among them are Yuri Zubakov and Robert Markarian, both of whom followed Mr Primakov into the Foreign Intelligence Service and then went with him to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Although Mr Primakov has made a big play of having a free hand to choose his Government, Mr Masyukov has announced that all the ideas proposed by Viktor Chernomyrdin, Mr Primakov's ousted rival, will in fact be included in the new programme now being formulated. Mr Chernomyrdin himself, seemingly unimpressed by his double rejection by the Duma, has announced his intention to run for President in 2000.

Although Mr Primakov appears to have made an authoritative start, he has a tough job ahead of him. If hyperinflation turns out to be the result of his new economic emphasis, the winter could be long and hard.

Putsch unlikely, page 18

Picasso painting lost in Swissair jet crash

By CHRIS BROADHURST

A PICASSO, diamonds and banknotes were lost with the Swissair jet that crashed off Nova Scotia earlier this month.

The Painter, worth about \$1.5 million (£890,000), was in a normal freight container and was destroyed, a Swissair spokesman said yesterday. The flight was also carrying nearly 100lb of banknotes. The money was being sent by an American bank to another bank in Switzerland, the airline said.

A quantity of gems and watches were also lost in the crash off the Canadian coast that killed all 229 on board. In the

hold was also a "diplomatic consignment" and an unidentified work of art.

The containers holding the valuables have reinforced walls and an aluminium door with a special lock and metal seal. Swissair said. "Containers of this kind are not shockproof and fireproof. It should be assumed that the valuables container did not remain undamaged in the crash." Swissair cargo shipments are normally insured at \$20 a kilogram, excluding any policies the shippers of goods take out.

Swissair also confirmed reports on Sunday that the plane was carrying a locked box possibly containing millions of dollars in cash and gold. The airline, which frequently transports money in and out of

Geneva, would not reveal the amount on board the flight that crashed on September 2 after a fire on board.

Wayne Noonan, of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, refused to say how much money was involved but said the bills were in a safe in the cargo hold. "The money was secured in a fire- and shock-proof container and wrapped in such a manner that it would not [have] floated even if the box busted open," he said.

USS Grapple, a US Navy salvage ship, was preparing yesterday to begin lifting large pieces of the demolished jet from the ocean floor near Peggy's Cove. Its primary targets are five sections of fuselage lying in about 190ft of water.

Bavaria victory boosts Kohl

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

HELMUT KOHL, the German Chancellor, said yesterday the tide was turning in his favour and that his Christian Democrat-led Government would be returned to power in a fortnight.

His optimism was the result of a resounding regional election victory by the Christian Social Union, his Bavarian sister party, and a poor result by the Social Democrats. Herr Kohl proclaimed this to be a model for the general election on September 27. "The voters have shown that they reject an alliance between Social Democrats and Greens."

His challenger, Gerhard Schröder, said it was disappointing but not significant because Bavarians were not asked "whether to get rid of a used-up Chancellor who lives in the past". Herr Schröder ascribed the victory to the popularity of Edmund Stoiber, the Bavarian state leader.

Herr Kohl's Christian Democrats still lag between 3 and 6 per cent behind the Social Democrats. His campaign managers have taken a dramatic step: they are trying to brand opposition politicians as terrorist sympathisers.

Last week, French police, acting on a German request, arrested Hans-Joachim Klein, a former accomplice of Carlos the Jackal, in Normandy. Since there has been no secret about his whereabouts for the past 20 years, the arrest is seen as part of the poll campaign, to make a point about the opposition leaders. Joscha Fischer, the Greens' leader, once lent his car to Herr Klein, who used it to transport guns.

Otto Schily, tipped to be Interior Minister in a Schröder government, was defence lawyer for members of the Baader-Meinhof gang. Herr Schröder, in his early career as a lawyer, defended the terrorist Horst Mahler.

Dirty campaigning may be enough to swing the many undecided voters.



Edmund Stoiber, Bavaria's CSU leader

NOTE CHANGE OF DATE BELOW * ALAN CLARK FORUM



Alan Clark, the Tory MP, historian and celebrated diarist, will be speaking on his new book, *The Tories: Conservatives and the Nation State 1922-1997* (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £20) at a Times/Dillons Forum on Wednesday, September 23, 1998. The forum will be chaired by Peter Stothard, Editor of *The Times*, and there will be an opportunity to put questions to the former Minister. The forum, the 50th in the Times/Dillons Forum series, will take place at 7.30pm at the Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London WC1E. The admission price of £10 (concessions £7.50 for students, pensioners and the unemployed on production of valid I.D.) includes a reduction of £2 on copies of *The Tories*.

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*Wednesday, September 23, 1998

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Mer hijack Ka

THE TIMES TUESDAY

Tiananmen hardliner dies at 92

Beijing, China. A prominent Chinese politician and hardliner, who played a key role in the Tiananmen Square protests of 1989, died at the age of 92.

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Mercenaries hijack war in Kashmir

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN URI, WESTERN KASHMIR

FOREIGN Islamic mercenaries have all but hijacked the Muslim uprising in India's Kashmir Valley, their zealotry heightened by the near-collapse of Afghanistan by the extreme Taliban militia. It is a sign that religious fanaticism in Afghanistan is starting to be felt across the region.

One newly-arrived group, Taleban-Kashmir, ordered women to start wearing a head-to-toe veil from last Friday. Most Kashmiris ignored it, but the instruction has raised fears that Taleban's influence could threaten the tolerant Sufi traditions of the valley. Taleban-Kashmir has already made clear its disapproval of the Sufi tradition of using idols in worship.

India, understood to have 250,000 troops in Kashmir, is capable of repelling any direct assault by Taleban. Direct confrontation is unlikely, but Taleban will have direct access to the Pakistani side of the former princely state of Kashmir, with which it shares a short border, if it captures the northeastern corner of Afghanistan — one of the few regions outside its control.

It would then be a clear journey to the Indian border in Kashmir, much of it through tribal areas that are effectively outside the jurisdiction of the Pakistan Government. Farooq Abdullah, Chief Minister of Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state, has issued warnings about the possible spread of Taleban's influence.

There is no longer an effective Kashmiri guerrilla group left in the valley. Foreign Islamic mercenaries are firmly

in control of an uprising that began in 1989 as a local rebellion against perceived religious discrimination.

Most senior state government positions were held by Hindus and decades of corruption left the state poor. Almost all elections were rigged to ensure a pro-India result.

Pakistan's influence in spreading Islamic extremism in Kashmir is pivotal. Jamaat-i-Islami, the biggest fundamentalist group in Pakistan, privately admits to training Kashmiris. Pakistanis and Afghans for guerrilla warfare in the region. Harkat-ul-Mujahidin, which operates openly in Pakistan and is active in Kashmir, had its guerrilla training camp destroyed when America bombed its base in Khost, Afghanistan, last month.

Foreign Islamic mercenaries are well equipped and receive substantial pay for what are sometimes two-year contracts. A small group of Pakistani mercenaries was captured recently — the first foreigners to have given up without a fight to the death. Senior army officers say foreign mercenaries fight to the end, aware that they will die in custody anyway. A number of Afghan mercenaries have been killed in Kashmir; other killed fighters have come from Sudan, Yemen, Saudi Arabia and beyond.

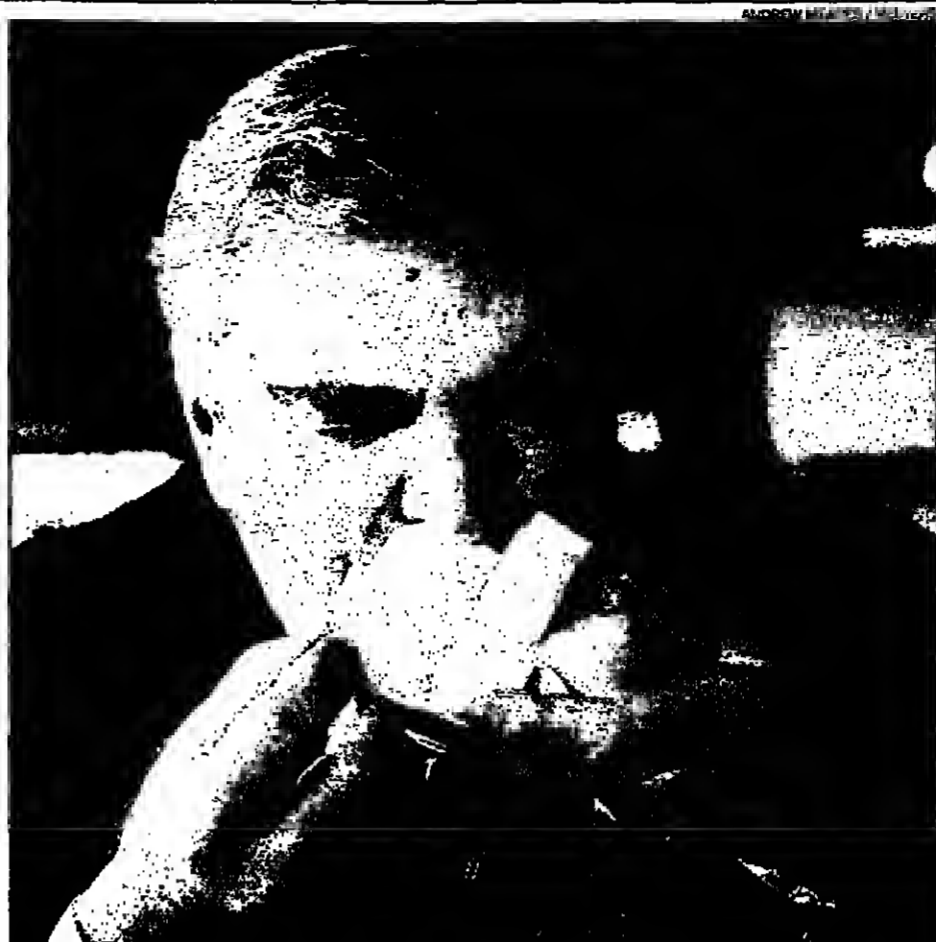
Hindus have been massacred in recent months in Kashmir, in an attempt to inflame religious conflict, almost certainly by foreign mercenaries. Militancy has moved from its focus in the Kashmir Valley to areas with a small army pres-

ence, particularly in the largely Hindu region of Jammu.

Islamabad: The Taleban has deployed 25,000 troops along the border with Iran, a spokesman said in the Pakistani capital yesterday.

The news came as Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Iran's supreme leader, warned Taleban and Pakistan that their actions in Afghanistan could provoke a conflict. Tehran has 70,000 troops along the frontier. He said: "I have... so far prevented the lighting of a fire which would be hard to extinguish."

The Taleban, which on Sunday seized Bamyan, a centre of the Iran-backed Shia opposition, killed Iranian envoys after taking Mazar-i-Sharif. Iran has urged the United Nations to prevent a tragedy in Bamyan. (Reuters)



Kim Beazley, the Labor leader, eating a mango on the campaign trail yesterday

Labor entices voters with republic pledge

FROM DAVID WATTS IN SYDNEY

IN AN attempt to ignite its election campaign, the Australian Labor Party has offered voters a fast track to a republic. Kim Beazley, its leader, said Australians would be able to watch one of their own citizens open the Olympic Games in the year 2000 if they voted Labor into power.

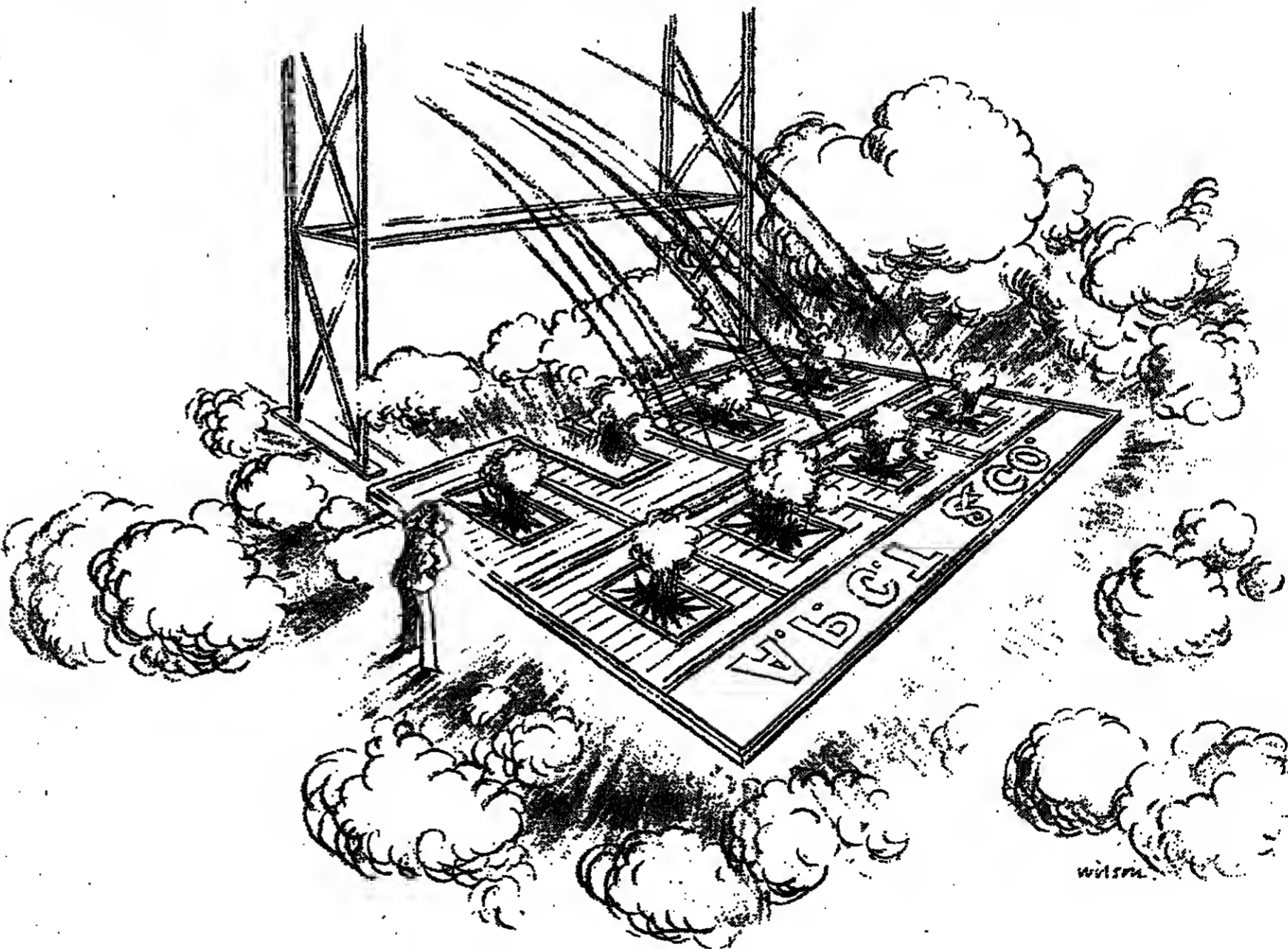
Mr Beazley, speaking in a televised debate with John Howard, the Prime Minister, did not elaborate on how it would be possible to make the necessary constitutional changes. After the constitutional convention's vote for a republic earlier this year most Australians seem content to let things ride until next year's referendum on the form of a republic.

Mr Beazley took many by surprise, including apparently Mr Howard who did not respond to the Labor carrot. Labor certainly needs

carrots to entice the voters — opinion polls seem to indicate no great impact by a leader who is trying to lift his party's fortunes by personally. His warmth and bluntness contrast with Mr Howard who always manages to look like a bemused chief accountant who finds himself running the company. Both spend much time talking about tax and claim they will have nothing to do with the One Nation party of Pauline Hanson.

The centrepiece of Mr Howard's campaign is a VAT-type tax to pay for a range of reforms of funding at the state and federal level. He says he will lighten the tax burden on business and make Australia competitive. Mr Beazley says the tax is a smokescreen for big tax rises and a shifting of responsibilities from federal to state governments.

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Tiananmen hardliner dies at 92



Yang ordered the 1989 Tiananmen crackdown

Beijing: China's former hardline President, Yang Shangkun, who in 1989 gave the order to crush the pro-democracy movement in Tiananmen Square, died yesterday aged 92 (Owen Brown writes).

An obituary by the Chinese leadership described the former military chief and veteran of the Communist Party's Long March as a "great proletarian revolutionary, statesman, and military strategist".

As the second most powerful man in China, Mr Yang was pivotal in rallying hardlin-

ers behind then paramount leader Deng Xiaoping to order a brutal end to protests in Beijing in 1989. His death from illness was announced as the lead item in the national 7pm television news.

Obituary, page 21



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Supporters of Sali Berisha, the former President, aim an anti-tank gun at a government building in Tirana yesterday

Berisha supporters bring Tirana to brink of chaos

Prime Minister tries to restore order as anger spreads after opposition leader's funeral, writes Anthony Loyd

FIGHTING erupted in the Albanian capital yesterday, leaving the centre in chaos as supporters of Sali Berisha, the former President, clashed through the day with forces loyal to Fatos Nano, the Socialist Prime Minister.

The violence, which claimed three lives, began after several thousand people gathered for the funeral of Azem Hajdari, a founder member of Dr Berisha's Democratic Party who was killed with his bodyguard in what appears to have been a contract killing two days ago. A mob, carrying the coffins on their shoulders, swept out of Skanderbeg Square and up the Boulevard of Martyrs, where they began to stone the Prime Minister's office.

Perikli Teta, the Interior Minister, said later that police would "fire without warning at armed bandits" who continued to attack government buildings.

As the mob tried to break in, police retaliated, firing from

inside the building. The hail of Kalashnikov and pistol fire ignited running gunbattles throughout the city.

The attack initially repulsed Mr Nano, who on Sunday was given a 24-hour ultimatum by Dr Berisha to resign, attempted to restore order. Ben Blushi, his spokesman, said the Prime Minister had no intention of stepping down, but appealed for international help to prevent a return to the almost uncontrollable anarchy witnessed last year. Mr Nano's future remained distinctly uncertain, however: the pro-Berisha rebels skirmished outside the television station before sending staff fleeing with a volley of gunshots.

"We have taken over," an unidentified man told the nation. Dr Berisha himself then appeared, appealing for calm,

a political solution to the crisis and a day of peace in honour of Mr Hajdari, his closest friend in politics. Speaking to the thousands that milled around the funeral cortege, he blamed Mr Nano for the death of "the hero", whose anti-Communist student protests early in the decade helped to propel Mr Berisha to power.

BRITAIN yesterday made clear that it is "gravely concerned" about the outbreak of violence in Albania after the murder on Saturday of Azem Hajdari, a prominent opposition figure. Tony Lloyd, a Foreign Office Minister, said in a statement that Britain also feared the danger of "repercussions elsewhere in the region". (AFP)

The crowd chanted anti-Nano slogans, and also sang "UCK, UCK", in praise of the Albanian rebels in neighbouring Kosovo, with whom Dr Berisha appears to have uncomfortable connections. Tanks and armoured personnel carriers moved into Skanderbeg Square, but seemed reluctant to control the mob. One tank at least was mobbed by Berisha's gunmen and parked outside the Palace of Culture. There were reports of at least three other tanks taken by the protesters.

As the unrest spread, the Hotel Tirana International at one end of the square sealed its entrances. Young men were breaking into shops, which had closed for Hajdari's funeral. Local radio stations reported that "civilian patrols" were taking up positions near banks and other government

facilities to protect them from looters.

The peripheral streets were largely deserted. In the early evening, the Berisha mob clung grimly to their tank, while Mr Nano's black-shirted police raced around attempting to seal arterial roads. Some drove in convoys up and down the Boulevard of Martyrs, firing overhead towards the television centre, from where Berisha loyalists peppered the passing security forces.

I saw one group of armed men standing on the debris littering the pavements outside the Prime Minister's office, firing repeatedly into a car at point blank range. The vehicle's passenger scrambled out, hands raised, and began to stumble away backwards. I do not know the fate of the driver.

"Welcome to Albanian hospitality," said the receptionist in the empty foyer of the Hotel Rogner, a hundred yards from the action.



Protesters march on the city centre with a captured tank. There were reports of looting and the police tried to seal off arterial roads leading to the capital

Fearless darling of the Right

By JAMES PETTIFER

PROFILE

AZEM HAJDARI was the darling of the Albanian Right, hard, cheerful and a brilliant agitator who led the Tirana students in the uprising against the country's Communists rulers in 1990.

Like Sali Berisha, the former President, Hajdari was from Tropoja in the far north, and anathema to the former Communists around Fatos Nano, the Prime Minister. The perfect street orator, Hajdari said what Dr Berisha did not wish to say. He was a candidate for leader of the Democrats in 1991, but an American-engineered coup in

the party brought Dr Berisha to power instead.

Hajdari knew he was living on borrowed time after surviving an assassination attempt in parliament last summer. His funeral will mark the end of any possibility of parliamentary opposition functioning in the capital and there is a real risk of a return to last year's anarchy.

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LONDONDERRY NOW OPEN

Pierre Cardin plans new lighthouse for Alexandria

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

PIERRE CARDIN, the French fashion magnate, has won approval from the Egyptian Government for a project to build a multicoloured lighthouse at Alexandria, more than 600 years after the original tower crashed into the Mediterranean during an earthquake.

M. Cardin, 76, a peace ambassador for Unesco, the United Nations scientific and cultural body, and head of the fashion, food and cosmetics empire that bears his name, is behind the project, which is backed by the Council of Europe, Unesco and various French companies. A 4ft model of the planned lighthouse was unveiled at the World Fair in Lisbon last week.

The original Alexandria lighthouse, the seventh wonder of the world, was built in about 281 BC overlooking the bay. It collapsed in 1349, after two earthquakes, and no trace of it has been recovered.

The new lighthouse, which has been designed by Jacques Darolles, a French lighting engineer, will be made out of a special concrete designed to

withstand earth tremors and tidal waves and will stand on a jetty extending 450ft into the bay. The 435ft tower will be covered in mirrored glass more than an inch thick and its fluorescent lights will be visible from 34 miles out at sea, according to the designer's plan.

After months of negotiations, the project was approved by the Governor of Alexandria two weeks ago, and a site without archaeological remains was earmarked near the site of the original tower.

M. Cardin, who has become a roving ambassador for the project, is confident that the Fr300 million (£30 million) needed to build the lighthouse will be raised from international donors. Financing will be co-ordinated by the Pierre Cardin International Foundation for Culture and Peace.

"Everyone concerned with peace around the world will be able to take part in the subscription by buying shares at \$30 (£18) each," M. Cardin said. "It's a project that makes people dream about the past

and the future." The tower, expected to be finished by June 2000, will "symbolise the start of the third millennium just as the Eiffel Tower symbolises the beginning of the 20th century."

M. Darolles, who is also director of the National Centre for Art and Technology at Reims, intends to install more than 16,000 computer-controlled lights the length of the structure, which will light up the concrete obelisk in blue, red, green and pink.

Laser-beams will sweep around from the sea to illuminate Alexandria's monuments, while the outside of the tower will be inscribed with lettering in Greek, Latin and Arabic as well as Egyptian hieroglyphics to reflect the "four civilisations that contributed their riches to this city".

"The column is a gift to Egypt, which gave us the obelisk standing in the Place de la Concorde," M. Darolles said. "The glass covering will give the appearance of a mirror during the day and of a needle of light when night falls."



Cardin with a model of the 435ft tower which is to be built at Alexandria

Public Notice

THE INQUIRY INTO THE MANAGEMENT OF CARE OF CHILDREN RECEIVING COMPLEX HEART SURGERY AT THE BRISTOL ROYAL INFIRMARY

The Secretary of State for Health, Frank Dobson, has appointed Professor Ian Kennedy, Professor of Health Law, Ethics and Policy at the University College, London, to conduct an inquiry under Section 84 of the National Health Service Act 1977.

Professor Kennedy's terms of reference are: "To inquire into the management of the care of children receiving complex cardiac surgical services at the Bristol Royal Infirmary between 1984 and 1995 and relevant related issues; to make findings as to the adequacy of the services provided; to establish what action was taken both within and outside the hospital to deal with concerns raised about the surgery and to identify any failure to take appropriate action promptly; to reach conclusions from these events and to make recommendations which could help to secure high quality care across the NHS."

Professor Kennedy will hold a preliminary hearing at 10.30am on Tuesday, October 27, 1998 in the Conference Hall at Bristol City Council, The Council House, College Green, Bristol BS1 5TR.

The purposes of this preliminary hearing will be:

- to explain the purpose of the inquiry;
- to explain its procedure; and
- to consider applications to be legally represented at the inquiry at public cost.

Anyone who has an interest in any matter within the terms of reference of the inquiry is invited to attend the preliminary meeting at 10.30am on Tuesday, October 27, at Bristol City Council's Conference Hall. The hearing will be restricted to the purposes set out above.

Full public hearings, to be held in both Bristol and London, will start as early as possible in 1999.

General questions about the inquiry can be addressed to the Secretary, Una O'Brien, Bristol Royal Infirmary Inquiry, Room 1G67, Welling House, 135-155 Waterloo Road, London SE1 8UG; tel: 0171 972 4602; e-mail: inquiry@doh.gov.uk

Anyone proposing to make a submission about legal costs is requested to notify the Secretary in writing in advance.

THE TIMES TUESDAY

Test predicted who sufficient democracy

Anjana Ahuja... dramatic development... predicting Alzhe...

A...

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09/15/1998

Test that predicts who will suffer dementia

Anjana Ahuja reports on a dramatic development in predicting Alzheimer's

Alzheimer's disease is a wily and pernicious stalker. As our serialisation this week of John Bayley's memoir of Iris Murdoch shows, by the time sufferers have a definite diagnosis, the disease has obliterated many faculties and snatched away their sense of self.

A cure for this distressing dementia, which affects 400,000 people in Britain and accounts for 55 per cent of all dementia cases, is not imminent, despite all the headlines about breakthroughs. The disease is thought to be caused by the formation of protein plaques on brain tissue, but science has yet to come up with anything that can reverse the process.

'It took me four sessions before I got the test right'

This is why the thrust of drug development is slowly shifting. Companies are focusing less on developing cures and more on formulating "neuro-protectives". These drugs, such as Aricept and Exelon, act to preserve the levels of acetylcholine, a brain chemical involved in the communication between neurons, and in which Alzheimer's sufferers are deficient.

These medications stave off cognitive decline for a number of months. However, they can revolutionise the treatment of Alzheimer's only if doctors can spot it early enough to allow most of the brain to be preserved.

Dr Joanna Iddon, senior neuropsychologist in the cognition division, says her colleagues are "very excited about it". The Cantab (Cambridge Neuropsychological Test Automated Battery) test for Alzheimer's disease takes barely a few minutes, and all the input information it needs is the age, sex and IQ of the patient. The scores are then checked against a database of healthy and affected people. This comparison generates a percentage probability that the patient will develop Alzheimer's.

Among other effects, the disease causes impairment to visual memory and spatial working memory. So these are the kinds of tasks given in the test.

One task involves looking at a number of squares arranged in a circle, with an abstract pattern set in each. Squares and patterns flash up in turn, for a couple of seconds. Moments later, when faced with a pattern, the subject must touch the square in which it ap-



Dr Joanna Iddon believes that Alzheimer symptoms should be caught as early as possible

peared. I found the tasks with four squares, and then six squares easy to accomplish. The idea is to see whether people eventually hit on a strategy for solving the problem — people with Alzheimer's find it almost impossible to devise such techniques.

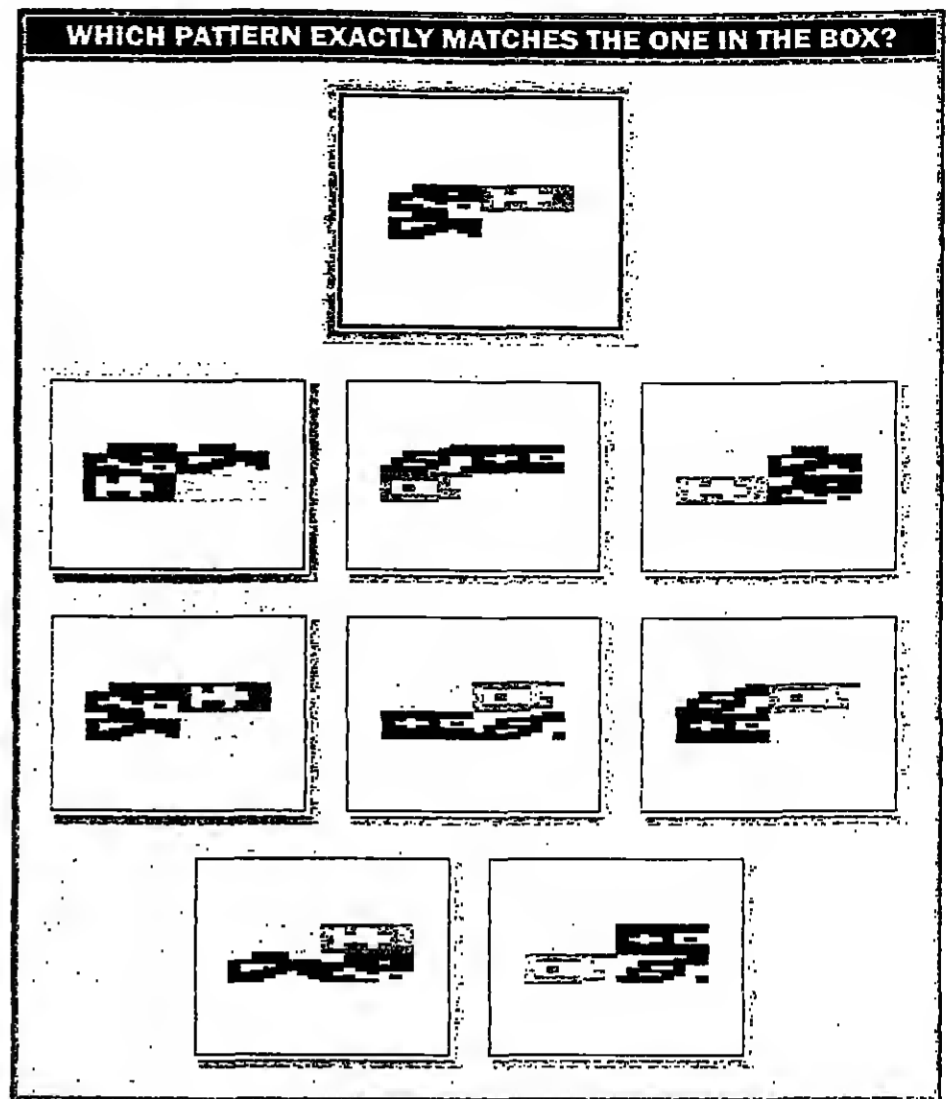
The Cantab test, still being worked on, has been tried out on 70 people. It is, in the jargon, "100 per cent sensitive and 88 per cent specific". This means it correctly identified all those who went on to develop dementia, but 12 per cent were false positives.

The crucial thing about the Cantab test is that it appears to be able to show whether increased forgetfulness and cognitive decline is caused by normal ageing or dementia. At the moment, doctors usually need other pointers to decide whether a patient ought to be investigated.

However, by the time more serious symptoms appear — such as severe memory loss, disorientation, concentration problems, language impairment and personality changes — a person's quality of life has diminished so much that protective drugs seem worthless.

The Cantab test has another important clinical application: it can distinguish between Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia and brain disease.

Dr Iddon says: "There is an apathy associated with Alzheimer's that can easily be confused with depression that many people experience in mid-life."



WHICH PATTERN EXACTLY MATCHES THE ONE IN THE BOX?

MANY of the tasks featured in the Cantab test for Alzheimer's involve pattern matching. In the diagram above, look at the top pattern for no more than two seconds. Then glance at the others and decide which matches the centre pattern (answer at the bottom).

The use of pictures means that the Cantab test, which takes about ten minutes, is not specific to language or culture, and so could be employed worldwide.

DECAY OF VISUAL MEMORY IS A KEY TEST

This particular exercise focuses on visual memory, which suffers as Alzheimer's runs its course. The patterns are deliberately designed to be extremely complex.

How the disease is diagnosed

The criteria for clinical diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease (AD), a condition affecting up to 20 million people worldwide, is set by the National Institute of Neurological and Communicative Disorders and Stroke, and the Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Association (NINCDS-ADRDA).

Such a diagnosis might be supported by a family history, changes in behaviour and brain scans showing areas of atrophy. However, if a person's decline is sudden rather than progressive, and they suffer such symptoms as lack of coordination or deficits in their vision, it is likely that Alzheimer's is not the culprit.

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IRIS: A MEMOIR

I put the champagne on the table

Iris



In the second extract from his memoir of Iris Murdoch John Bayley tells how he fell in love with the 'lady' he saw cycling through Oxford



John Bayley met his 'lady' at a party at which he was the only man: "When it dawned on me, a short time after the party, that they had all seemed to be in love with Iris, I had a sensation of despair"

Iris existed for me as a wonderful and solitary being, first seen bicycling slowly and rather laboriously past the window in St Antony's College, where I was living. Trying to work, and gazing idly out at the passing scene on the Woodstock Road, now intolerably full of traffic but then a comparatively quiet thoroughfare, I noted the lady on the bicycle (she seemed at once to me more of a lady than a girl) and wondered who she was and whether I would ever meet her. Perhaps I fell in love. Certainly it was in the innocence of love that I indulged the momentary fantasy that nothing had ever happened to her: that she was simply bicycling about, waiting for me to arrive.

"AH, THERE you are, John. I may call you John, mayn't I?" Miss Griffiths gave a characteristic small giggle.

Although it was just across the road from St Antony's I had never before been into St Anne's, which I regarded as an all-feminine province, likely to be virtually out of bounds

to males and male students. "Meet Miss Ady," said Miss Griffiths, "and Miss Murdoch. Iris, this is one of the more promising young ones in the English School. Very good results in Finals. I caught him out over Old English grammar, his weaker side I fear, but he did a beautiful piece on *The Knight's Tale*."

Iris Murdoch gave me a kindly look, said "Hullo", and continued talking to Miss Ady. I saw the dashing Miss Ady tap Iris playfully on the wrist while emphasising some point to her, perhaps about their teaching; for Miss Ady, as I afterwards discovered, taught politics and economics, while Iris handled the philosophy. Miss Griffiths handed me a glass, from which I at once took a desperate swig. I coughed, and felt myself going scarlet in the face. It was a strong gin and French. Iris and her friends drank a lot of it, and for me that was the first of many.

I was the only man in the room. There were four or five women at the party but they all seemed to want to talk to

Iris. I was left with Miss Griffiths, who was nersset looking at Iris with a wistful expression which even at that awkward moment surprised me.

What I had not the slightest idea of was that St Anne's, at that time, was a hotbed of emotion. The dons in general were not, so to speak, professional lesbians. Many were, or had been, married; they led domestic as well as academic lives. They were nice clever donnish women, hard-working and conscientious, but a lot of feelings ran beneath the surface. In any case I had simplistic ideas about sex at that time, supposing that everybody must be either one thing or the other.

When it dawned on me, a short time after the party, that they had all seemed to be in love with Iris, I had a sensation of despair. If they all felt like that about her, didn't it follow that she must feel the same about them? — at least about one or two of them? Iris was, as I realised later, much too kind to discourage affection, even yearning affection, but she was apt to draw a line if a woman expressed it too physically. She never went to bed with any of her colleagues, or indeed with any other woman, although the novelist Bridget Brophy tried very hard indeed to persuade her. That was both before and after we were married.

I never managed to talk to Iris at that party but the god of chance seemed to be in a long-suffering mood. After seeing me fail to make anything of the unexpected coincidence he had arranged, he patiently set to work yet again. Asked to supper three weeks later by a couple who knew a friend I had not seen for years, I discovered that Iris was my sole fellow-guest. But I soon felt that I

was failing again. Although friendly and not at all shy, Iris was not a helpful conversationalist. I offered openings and raised points in what I hoped was an interesting way, but she smiled kindly and did not respond.

Quite abruptly, and early, Iris said she must go home. For the first time I managed to seize the moment, and I said regretfully that I must go too. Goodnight being said and the front door closed, we unlocked our bicycles and set out together into the damp mild Oxfordshire night. We rode in silence, and I assumed it was to break it that she asked me

lives and we led ours. But since we knew they were there, and they knew we knew they were there, our relations could never feel quite the same. For one thing their behaviour ceased to be so considerate. Now we often heard them moving about beneath the floorboards. The house had been built

legged not only to destroy rats without pain but to be positively enjoyed by them in the process. We spooned it through the cracks soon we could bear the rats enjoying it. Now there were not only cawing noises in the night but squeals of ecstasy as well.

Iris began to look anguished. The sounds ceased quite abruptly, as if the animals had decided that if we would not play the game, neither would they — they would rather leave home.

I was concerned about the probable smell of unburied rat bodies. But the old house remained odour-free. It really looked as if they had staged a final feast and moved out.

And now of course we missed them. Iris ceased to look so agonised, and never mentioned the rats, but I think we sometimes listened for them if we woke up in the night. I can feel and hear their almost sympathetic company in some of Iris's novels, written at her table just above their heads; for after we first realised their presence she

used to say she had become aware of it in the daytime as well as by night, and found it congenial, even stimulating. In summertime it blended with the sounds from the garden, the song of blackbirds and the twittering of the swallows — "the Weatherbys" — on the telephone wire outside the window.

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Rats beneath the floorboards

"THE house and premises known as Cedar Lodge," as the old deeds described them, were neither warm nor dry. There were the remains of a huge cedar near the front gate. Perhaps they had chopped this great tree down and burnt it indoors in a vain attempt to keep warm? We ourselves tried various ways of doing the same thing. Nothing seemed to do any good.

Our bed, too, was the one place from which to me the house felt safe and natural. The bed was home, even if unknown people might be living at the other end of the long house, perhaps unaware of our existence.

It was when Iris was away for a day or two that I realised that the existence of these other people was not just fantasy. As I came from the garden and went up the dark staircase I saw something going up ahead of me. It was a large rat. It reached the top, looked around unhurriedly, and dived with a plop into a wide crack between the oak boards. It had come home.

Those rats were gentlemen. Until that moment we had no idea of their existence. Nor did their presence cause us any bother — at first. They led their



Cedar Lodge: neither warm nor dry but with lots of rats

in the solid style of its period, with plenty of woodwork to gnaw upon. Those rats took to gnawing it as a nighttime occupation, and sometimes they charged up and down those long invisible corridors at two in the morning. It seemed clear that something had to be done. I obtained quantities of a substance al-

shortly to be published. I felt overwhelmed with awe and admiration. "You mustn't tell anyone," she said, stopping her bicycle and putting a foot to the ground. She looked straight at me, speaking lightly but also very seriously. "I don't want anyone to know."

I gave a fervent undertaking. I would not reveal her secret to a soul. I was overwhelmed with joy that she could have confided this secret to me. Could she have known that I had fallen in love with her, and had decided like a philosopher, on a ground of reason and good sense, that she was also in love with me?

As I came to know her it soon occurred to me that she had in fact revealed this secret of her novel to quite a number of people. What is more, some of them had even read it — in manuscript, in Iris's own handwriting. The idea of Iris wishing, or at least being prepared, to regard me as one of her several intimates friends did not appeal to me in the least. None the less that was the way it had to be.

In the early summer St Antony's College gave a modest dance. Although I was not by training or by temperament a dancing man I determined to go none the less, and to ask Iris if she would come with me. To my astonishment she accepted the invitation with alacrity.

At half-past six I went to collect Iris in her college room, waiting outside the door after I had knocked, and a voice from within had requested me to hang on a minute. While waiting I speculated on what she would look like, what she would be wearing. I assumed and rather hoped it would be

must be to indulge me and get me to talk about myself, for clearly she, a philosopher, could have no interest in the matter. I made some deprecating comment to this effect, and the next moment could hardly believe my ears. Miss Murdoch said that she herself had written a novel, which was

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THE TIMES TUESDAY

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IRIS: A MEMOIR

and we fell into each other's arms



Happy holidays: at the Villa Serbelloni, Como, in 1965



Family snaps: (above, left) the summer of 1962 at the Old Rectory, Liton Cheney in Dorset, "a magic place, away from the world" and (above, right) Iris talks to Mark Bonham Carter at a party for best-selling authors in 1966



something dark, preferably black, suited to the person of mature years and sober disposition which I still assumed and hoped her to be. Was it not these imagined qualities in her which had attracted me so strongly when I first saw her on her bicycle?

The door opened. An apparition in what seemed a sort of flame-coloured brocade stood before me.

A steep flight of stone steps led down to the St Antony's crypt in which the dance was to be held. As we went down Iris trod on her long dress, slipped, and slid inelegantly down a few steps on her behind. She was not hurt. She got up and smiled while the others brushed her down, amid laughter and joking. The ice was already broken as far

as fellow-dancers were concerned.

My dancing was unconfident. When we moved, there seemed no correlation between the different parts of us. Iris smiled at me encouragingly, and a few seconds later relinquished me and began to execute arm-twirlings and arabesques on her own. She looked ungainly and rather affected, but touchingly naive at the same time.

The band gave a flourish, and stopped. Iris came back to me at once, looking happy and relaxed. She asked about my room in the college. I asked if she would like to go up there a minute, thinking of the bottle of champagne I had bought that morning, and put in my cupboard along with two glasses. She said she would like to

very much. I took her arm as we mounted the stone steps, in case she had another fall. My room was small and spartan: a bed, cupboard, table and wooden chair. But there was a gas fire, which I now turned on. I got the bottle and glasses out of the cupboard. As I put them down on the table we fell into each other's arms.

It seemed as natural as it had been to take her arm when coming up the stairs, or for her to take my hand for a minute when we had left her own room in St Anne's. We never returned to the dance floor but sat in my room until two in the morning. We talked without stopping. I had no idea I could talk like that, and I am sure she never knew she could, either.

I think Iris was accustomed only to talk properly, as it were, considering, pausing, modifying, weighing her words. To talk like a philosopher and a teacher. Now she babbled like a child. So did I. With arms around each other, kissing and rubbing noses (I said how much I loved her snub nose) we rambled on and on. She seemed to be giving way to some deep need of which she had been wholly unconscious: the need to throw away not only the rivalries of intellect, but the emotional fears and fascinations, the power struggles and surrenders of adult loving.

I had a wish to rub my nose and lips along her bare arm. She made me take off my dinner jacket so that she could do the same to me.

"If we were married we could do this all the time," I said, rather absurdly.

"We shall be doing it nearly all the time," she answered.

"Yes, but if —"

She stopped that by starting to kiss me properly. We remained locked together for a long time. The bottle of champagne remained unopened on the table.

Long, long afterwards I was having to look through her manuscripts and papers to find some stuff requested by the publisher. In the back of an exercise book containing notes for a novel were what seemed to be a few entries, some dated, others random observations, comments on books, philosophers, people she knew, denoted only by initials. Some notes on pupils too, and on points that had struck her in their work. One entry, dated June 3, 1954, read: "St Antony's Dance. Fell down the steps, and seem to have fallen in love with J. We didn't dance much."

● Extracted from *Iris: A Memoir* by Iris Murdoch by John Bayley, published by Duckworth at £16.95. Times readers can buy a copy for £14.95 by calling The Times Bookshop on 0990 134459. Copyright John Bayley 1998

Peaceful bedroom habits

CLUELESS as I still was in the early days of our relationship, I did know by then that Iris had several lovers, often at the same time. I also intuited — how I don't know but it turned out to be correct enough — that she usually gave her favours out of admiration for the godlike rather than the conventionally-attractive or sexual attributes in the men who pursued her. Sex was something she regarded as rather marginal, not an end in itself.

As my own feelings became closely involved I saw all such matters in an absurdly lurid light. In reality the people Iris went to see were not gods, but intellectuals, writers, artists, civil servants, mostly Jewish and mainly refugees. In time I met most of them and got on with them well, surprised and in later days amused when I looked back at the storm of fears and emotions they had once aroused in me.

There have been moments when I found myself wondering how Iris got on in bed with lovers whose approach was more ambitious or more

demanding than my own. On one occasion I accidentally received an unexpected hint from an acquaintance who had been for a brief period a successful admirer. I did not care for this character, a highly distinguished figure in his own sphere, with a weakness for keeping his friends a trifle over-informed about a current love affair, and how painful or ecstatic or both it was turning out to be.

On this occasion he made some remark about how important it was to get the girl proficient at what you wanted to do yourself, indicating that if she was gone on you enough she would — whatever it was.

"Nothing more discouraging than a partner who won't enter into the spirit of the thing," he observed sagely, and then gave me a sudden guilty look as if he might have given something away. It was unlikely that he knew of his walk-out with Iris, but that brief handglove look gave me a strong suggestion that he was thinking of her and her shortcomings in bed, thoughts which he realised were now

not best communicated to her husband.

Certainly our bedroom habits (the deep peace of the double bed after the hurly-burly on the chaise longue, as Mrs Pat Campbell noted) were always peaceful and unbothered by considerations of better, or more. The lady in Iris's novel *A Severed Head* who complained that her marriage "wasn't getting anywhere" would probably have made the same observation about her sex life.

We expected neither sex nor marriage to get anywhere: we were happy for them to jog on just as they were.

I did know by then that Iris had several lovers

TOMORROW

'I shan't do it and shall never do another.'

Trouble over Iris Murdoch's final novel and how John Bayley realised for first time that something might be seriously wrong

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COURT CIRCULAR

BALMORAL CASTLE September 14: The Crown Prince Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud of Saudi Arabia was invited to lunch with the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh today when Her Majesty invested him with the insignia of an Honorary Knight Grand Cross of the Civil Division of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE September 14: The Prince Edward, President of the Commonwealth Games Federation, this morning watched the netball and lawn bowls at Bukit Kiara, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia before attending a variety of Commonwealth Games sporting events this afternoon.

KENSINGTON PALACE September 14: The Duke of Gloucester, Deputy Colonel-in-Chief, Royal Logistic Corps, this afternoon received Major General Martin White upon relinquishing his appointment as Director General Logistic Support (Army) and Major General Adrian Lyons upon assuming the appointment of Major General.

ST JAMES'S PALACE September 14: The Duke of Kent today visited Kent and was received by Mr John Jennings (Deputy Lieutenant of the County).

Birthdays today

Prince Henry of Wales is 14 today. Other birthdays include the Rev Professor P. M. Acroyd, theologian. 81; Mr Richard Arnell, composer and conductor, 81; Mr Charles Bone, mural and watercolour painter, 72; the Marquess of Bristol, 44; General Eva Burrows, farmer, international leader, Salvation Army, 69; Mr T.J. Duggin, diplomat, 51; Lord Eden of Winton, 73; Professor Brian Fender, chief executive, Higher Education Funding Council for England, 64; Dr Richard Gordon, author, 77; Lord Harris of Greenwich, 77; Lord Harris of Greenwich, former president, Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow, 62; Miss Jessie Norman, soprano, 53; Viscount Norwich, 69; Mr Glen Renfrew, former chief executive, Reuters, 70; Sir Clive Rose, former diplomat, 70; Lord Justice of Appeal, 61; Lady Soames, 70; Mr Oliver Stone, film director, 52; Sir Peter Studd, former Lord Mayor of London, 52; Mr Graham Taylor, football manager, 54; Sir Richard Way, former principal, King's College London, 84; Sir John Williams, former diplomat, 76.

Memorial service

The Marchioness of Downshire, a service of thanksgiving for the life of the Marchioness of Downshire was held yesterday at St Mary's, Thornton Watsons, Yorkshire. The Rev David Ryan officiated, assisted by the Rev Derek Dalton, Mr Richard Taylor, son, read the lesson and the Earl of Hillsborough, nephew, read Turn again to Life by Mary Lee Hall. Sir Robin Chester-Clipton gave an address. The boys of Ripon Cathedral Choir, directed by Mr Kerry Beaumont, sang during the service. Among others present were: The Duke and Duchess of Devonshire (husband), Mr and Mrs David Taylor (son and daughter-in-law), Mrs Ernest and Mrs Curran (daughters), Mr and Mrs Francis Stowell and Mr and Mrs Sean Barton (sons), Mrs Jennifer and Mrs Lady Kinderley (step-sister-in-law), the Countess of Hillsborough, (step-sister-in-law), Lord and Lady Anthony Hill (stepson and stepdaughter-in-law) and other members of the family and friends.

Sheet music celebrating the sentiments of the anti-slavery movement

The sentiments of the anti-slavery movement of the last century were among a collection that was sold yesterday (Hannah Betts writes). Pieces such as "Scenes from Uncle Tom's Cabin", above, helped to push up the price to £5,000 at Phillips in Bath. They were part of one of the largest collections of illustrated sheet music to come to auction. Music from Walt Disney films, songs by band leaders of the 1930s and 1940s, and more recent pop music were featured. But the jewels of the Nancy Mortimer collection were 800 pieces of Victorian sheet music with sumptuous lithographic covers by artists of the period such as John Brandard and Alfred Concanen. Gill Atkins, Phillips's manuscript specialist, said: "Together, the artwork and music give a genuine sense of the time in which they were produced."

Plantation songs recall anti-slavery movement

The MacGregor Memorial Pibroch Competition for young pipers was won by Margaret Houlihan, from Clack, Retiree. All the Men Paid Rent but Roy and The Massacre of Glencoe. Brian May, from Brooklyn, came second with The Bicker and The MacDougalls Gathering. John Mulhern, in third place, played The Lament for Donald of Logan and The King's Taxes. A fourth prize went to Edward Seamus Coyne played The Muroos Salute. Liam Brown was fifth with The Salute to Donald.

Forthcoming marriages

The Hon C.L. Broughton and Miss N.J. Goggs. The engagement is announced between Lieutenant the Hon Charles Broughton, Grenadier Guards, son of Lord and Lady Fairhaven, of Lode, Cambridgeshire and Nicola, daughter of Mr and Mrs Quentin Goggs of Easterton, Wiltshire. Mr R. Cole and Miss M. Pearce. The engagement of Robert Cole and Madeline Pearce of Portsmouth, took place on February 14, 1998.

Latest wills

Lord Howell, Labour peer, of Mosely, Birmingham, as Denis Howell Minister of State for the Environment, 1974-79, left estate valued at £176,483 net. Fred Jeffrey, of Morecombe, Lancashire, £696,803 net.

Essex Lieutenancy

Mr Robert Felix Erith has been appointed a Deputy Lieutenant of Essex.

Pipers of the world unite

THE 114th Argyllshire Gathering heard pipers from ten countries, 30 widely has the interest in the music spread. A century ago there were usually six competitions, but at Oban on August 26 and 27 there were 13. There were 30 competitors for the Highland Society of London's Gold Medal, the winner of which is marked out as one of the leading pipers in the world. This year Niail MacFheòil, from Inverness, won it with The Old Man of the Shells (Bodrick nan Sliag).

School news

Lambrook Haileybury School The Governors of Lambrook Haileybury School, Winkfield, announce the appointment of Mr Robert Deighton, currently Headmaster of Bruton Abbey School, as Headmaster of Lambrook Haileybury on the retirement of Mr John Hare in September 1999.

Today's royal engagements

The Duke of York will present the Professional Cricketers' Association Players of the Year Awards at the Lord's Indoor Cricket School, St John's Wood, London, at 7.15. The Duchess of Gloucester will open St Helen's town centre refurbished market at 1.30; will visit Robins Lane Community School, St Helens at 2.15 and will open St Mary's Care Centre, Halewood, Merseyside, at 3.20.

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DEATHS BEARD - Stephen Ralph William Beard 84. Retired. Col in the Royal Corps. On 11th September 1998. Funeral 18th September 1998. Enquiries: 01457 825281.

DEATHS FOWLER - Robert Alan, aged 71, loved and loving husband to Joan, Dadey to Gill, Lindy and Penny and Grandpa to Becky, James, Ben, Sebald and Emilia, died peacefully on 11th September 1998 at his home in Winton, Dorset.

DEATHS POWELL - Vincent Tom FRCS, on September 12th 1998 aged 91 at home in Midhurst, West Sussex. Deceased on 12th September 1998. Burial will be held at Chichester Crematorium on Thursday September 17th at 12 noon.

DEATHS WILSON - Passed peacefully after a short illness, Peter Royal (formerly of London) on September 11th 1998, aged 77 years. He gave strength to us all.

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George Wallace

OBITUARIES

GEORGE WALLACE

George Wallace, the former four-term Governor of Alabama, died in Montgomery, Alabama, on September 13 aged 79. He was born in Ohio, Alabama, on August 25, 1919.

Crushed by an assassination attempt while making his third bid for the White House in 1972, George Wallace had first come to prominence with his 1962 defiant cry of "segregation now, segregation tomorrow, segregation for ever". That slogan, delivered in his first gubernatorial inaugural address, won him the support of the vast majority of Alabama voters. He stood in the "schoolhouse door" of the University of Alabama vainly trying to prevent the admission of two black students to the campus. In all, he served as Governor of Alabama for a total of 10 years. In 1972, he was the only Democrat to win a majority of the electoral college vote and to go on to win the subsequent election.

George Corley Wallace's family was respected and well-known politically. His grandfather had served as a county judge, and Wallace had his first taste of political campaigning at the age of 13. At 16 he became a page boy in the state senate of Alabama. Two years later, however, his father, an unsuccessful farmer, died and Wallace had to put himself through Alabama University by working as a waiter and a taxi driver. He was a popular student and a noted athlete, twice winning state amateur boxing titles in a Golden Gloves championship before his 18th birthday. He graduated in 1942 with a law degree and was called to the Alabama Bar that year. During the war he served in the United States Army Air Force in the Pacific theatre as a flight engineer, finishing with the rank of sergeant. From his university days, he had been compulsively ambitious politically. While serving in the Pacific, he had assiduously cultivated voters in his native constituency, sending out hundreds of Christmas cards each year. In 1946, he was appointed assistant attorney-general and the following year he was elected to the Alabama state legislature. He became the protégé of James "Kissing Jim" Folsom who, in 1954, captured the governorship of Alabama from the wealthy landowners who had previously controlled the Democratic Party in the state. In 1953, Wallace became a judge in the third judicial district, where he earned the nickname, from his natural pugnacity, of the "fighting little judge". Five years later, he ran for election to the governorship of Alabama for the first time. Remarkably, given his later policies and reputation, he assumed the guise of a racial moderate. This, however, merely reflected the racial attitudes of the time rather than any inherent liberalism on Wallace's part. His opponent was an extreme supporter of segregation. Thus Wallace violently attacked the Ku Klux Klan and won the endorsement, however reluctantly, of the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People. He was soundly beaten. He declared later that he had been "out-niggered," adding: "I'm not going to be out-niggered again."



George Wallace on typically combative form in 1968

In 1964 he made his first venture into national politics, managing to get his name onto the ballot list in three primary contests for the presidency and attracting more than a third of the votes in each case. He again drew international attention when he tried to change Alabama's constitution to enable him to be elected for a second successive term as governor and thus to provide himself with a secure base to attack the presidency in 1968. Thwarted in this, he secured instead the election of his wife as governor despite her ill health and record of operations for cancer (from which she was to die during the 1968 presidential campaign). His position as her official "number one adviser" in the Alabama military department enabled him to continue his control of Alabama politics, which traditionally had involved a good deal of intimidation and political corruption. For much of his career, Wallace's demagoguery, like that of many of his rivals and predecessors from the Deep South, involved ruthless exploitation of the resentment and opposition of the white rural population against black advancement and civil rights. As a result, his name became anathema to northern liberal intellectuals as represented in such organisations as Americans for Democratic Action. Yet, to the fury of such individuals, Wallace, like Robert Kennedy, could transcend the normal patterns of electoral behaviour. In his 1968 campaign for the presidency, for example, he was able to appeal both to the white-collar respectable commentators of the Eastern seaboard and to the "hard hat" blue-collar workers of the cities of the industrial North. He articulated

equally the fears and suspicions of the "redneck" rural poor and of the white ethnic urban inhabitants of the inner cities. In 1968, Wallace recognised that the liberal centre and radical wings of the Democratic Party were united in determination to break the white segregationist hold over southern politics, even to the extent of refusing to accept, automatically, the credentials of the dominant party delegations (for instance, from Mississippi) and seating instead mixed delegations. He, therefore, formed a third party, the American Independence Party, as a vehicle for his second bid for the presidency. As a man, he had few friends within politics and none outside. He had no personal interests and no hobbies. Politics was his life, especially campaign politics. He was the most approachable of men, both to the press and to the public. His personal characteristics, however, tended to raise hackles among the fastidious. He was a great picker of his teeth and a *Times* correspondent once noted that he was given to scratching himself in public and burping unashamedly. After rallies, he would lapse into brooding loneliness. His first wife, Lurleen, whom he married in 1943 when she was working in a dime-store, was regarded as his complete slave. His second, Cornelia, whom he married in 1970, was of a different background, the well-educated niece of his former patron, Governor George Folsom. She did a certain amount to smooth his rougher edges, but he remained very sensitive to any suggestion that she was masterminding his campaign.

Wallace had a deep-rooted desire for political power, a combativeness disproportionate even by the standards of American politics — and an indomitable courage. He was, for example, terrified of flying: yet he flew regularly and had served in the war as a flight engineer. He feared assassination and addressed crowds from behind a bullet-proof podium. Yet he left his shelter after each speech and plunged into the crowd — and thus laid himself open to the attempted assassination. It was the intensity of his ambitions that led him to spend the decade after becoming a paraplegic not in obscure retirement but in maintaining his place in Alabama politics. The result was that ten years later he was able to capture the Democratic nomination in the primaries for the governorship of his native state by a run-off vote and to go on to win the subsequent election. But he himself always regarded 1968 and 1972 as the years of his prime achievement. In 1968, despite multifarious legal obstacles, Wallace got his party onto the ballot in all 50 states, carried five of them states and won nearly 10 million votes, or about 13.5 per cent of the popular vote — a postwar record that was to stand until Ross Perot won 19 per cent of the national vote (though without winning a single state) in 1992. But with his first wife's death in May 1968, Wallace lost his power base in Alabama to the lieutenant-governor who tried, with momentary success, to shake Wallace's position in the state. His failure to do so on any long-lasting basis was demonstrated in 1970, when Wallace was again elected to the governorship. At the time of his attempted assassination in 1972, Wallace had made himself a major force to be reckoned with. His victories in Florida, Tennessee, North Carolina and Maryland showed that he still could command the loyalties of the southern and border states. The liberal measures to give all children an equal educational opportunity by mixing the social constitution of the schools, even at the cost of long "bussing" trips for pupils, had awoken the fears of white voters even in such unlikely places as Boston, Massachusetts. The Democratic convention took place while he was in hospital recovering from the assassination attempt, and, although he controlled 323 delegates, he had no lieutenants to divine, in his absence, which way they should vote. In the event, the convention was taken over by the Left of the party, led by Senator George McGovern, of South Dakota. There was nothing in McGovern's "rainbow coalition" appeal for Wallace's supporters. Wallace was the fourth American political figure to be the subject of an assassina-

tion attempt in nine years and the only one to survive. In the immediate wake of the attack, he won big victories in the Democratic primaries in Maryland and in Michigan. His voting strength tended to come from the male under-educated — though in Michigan his support came from traditional Republican voters crossing party lines. In that sense, his removal from the contest was a benefit to Richard Nixon who — in his steamroller victory over George McGovern in the November presidential election — mopped up almost all the primary voters who had earlier gone for Wallace. He made a further bid for the presidency after Nixon's disgrace over Watergate. In 1976 he put a toe into the primaries but withdrew it when he noticed that the crowds that turned out for him were a shadow of what they had been. He put this down to the presence of his wheelchair — and angrily argued with friends who reminded him that Franklin Roosevelt had got to the White House four times with the same immobility. "Yeah, they may have elected Roosevelt but the voters didn't have to watch him in television every night getting hauled onto a plane like he was half-dead." In June Wallace announced his withdrawal, giving his backing to another Southerner, Jimmy Carter of Georgia, who went on to beat Gerald Ford in the 1976 November election. The secret of Wallace's success — even after he had thrown away his more racist lines — always lay in the way he treated the federal government as though it were a sectional interest, totally isolated from other regions or classes. He never tired of the theme of the "little fellow" banishing to survive against the depredations of Washington. And he knew the power of code-words — the Eastern press, liberals, communists, federal judges, welfare programmes, miscegenation and all the rest. He himself liked to claim that he had spotted the aspiration for local white middle-class empowerment long before Ronald Reagan made it the key to his new popular conservatism. But by 1982, when he had lowered his sights to returning to the governor's mansion in Montgomery, Wallace had largely banished even his coded undertones: he had, no doubt, taken on board the fact that black voters were by then a factor to be reckoned with. Wallace married Lurleen Burns on May 23, 1943. They had three daughters and a son. Three years after her death, he married, in 1971, Mrs Cornelia Snively, née Austin, niece of his former patron, Governor Folsom. They were divorced in 1978; he married his third wife, Lisa Taylor, a country singer. They were divorced in 1987. He is survived by the four children of his first marriage.

YANG SHANGKUN

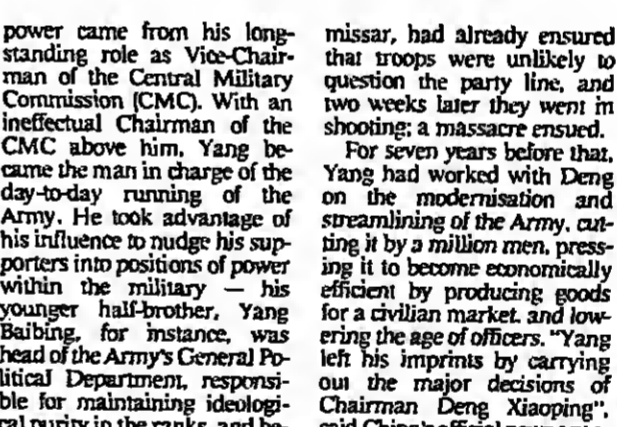
Yang Shangkun, Chinese Communist leader, died yesterday aged 91. He was born in 1907.

YANG SHANGKUN was one of the last of China's Communist revolutionaries. A veteran of the Long March, he became a powerful figure in the Chinese Communist regime, and was at one time considered — not least by himself — as a potential successor to his long-standing ally Deng Xiaoping, the country's paramount leader. By the time Deng died last year, however, Yang had long since been sidelined, though he remained influential behind the scenes, and made an official visit to Hong Kong as recently as January this year. Like Deng, he was in favour of modernising China's economy and institutions, but firmly opposed to political liberalisation. He will be remembered above all as the man who ordered the Army to attack peace-

ful pro-democracy demonstrators in Beijing's Tiananmen Square. At the peak of his career Yang held two official posts. The first, that of President, which he occupied from 1988, was on the face of it more exalted, but was a largely ceremonial position. Yang's real power came from his long-standing role as Vice-Chairman of the Central Military Commission (CMC). With an intellectual Chairman of the CMC above him, Yang became the man in charge of the day-to-day running of the Army. He took advantage of his influence to judge his supporters into positions of power within the military — his younger half-brother, Yang Baobing, for instance, was head of the Army's General Political Department, responsible for maintaining ideological purity in the ranks, and became secretary-general of the CMC. Yang was widely thought to be building up a power base in order to take supreme power when Deng died. Deng chose to curb those ambitions, however, and instead groomed Jiang Zemin as his successor. Yang was forced to retire from his official positions in 1992.

By then he had earned the dubious distinction of having been the man who implemented Deng's order to crush the student-led demonstrations of June 1989. Yang had supported Deng's reforming initiatives throughout the 1980s but, like his veteran revolutionary comrades, he was unable to countenance any threat to the dictatorship of the Communist Party. In May 1989 he warned the soon-to-be-disgraced party leader Zhao Ziyang that "if the leader of the student movement changed, we would be toppled." He then told troops that they were to obey orders no matter what. The efforts of Yang's younger brother, as the military's chief political com-

missar, had already ensured that troops were unlikely to question the party line, and two weeks later they went in shooting a massacre ensued. For seven years before that, Yang had worked with Deng on the modernisation and streamlining of the Army, cutting it by a million men, pressing it to become economically efficient by producing goods for a civilian market, and lowering the age of officers. "Yang left his imprimatur by carrying out the major decisions of Chairman Deng Xiaoping," said China's official news agency when he became President. Short and stocky, with silver hair and a nice line in Western suits when not in uniform, Yang could appear a charming man, yet he was widely disliked among the Chinese even before his part in the Beijing massacre. It is believed that there was substantial opposition to his influence with the Army too. One story (and possibly apocryphal) typical of the word of mouth that was after paying an official visit to a factory in the south-east, he rang the managers and demanded that they send him an antique ink stone which was part of the factory's collection. They were unhappy about parting with such a valuable artefact, and so sent him a similar stone worth slightly less. He sent back a message that he was not satisfied with the stone they had sent him; they were to send the other one too. Above all, he said, he had to give one to his good friend Deng Xiaoping.



After falling from favour during the Cultural Revolution, Yang returned rapidly to power alongside Deng. He was elected to the party central committee, and then became Secretary-General of the National People's Congress and, a year later, permanent vice-chairman of the all-powerful Central Military Commission. In 1982 he was elected to the Politburo. He travelled widely, visiting the United States, Canada, France, the Middle East and Latin America. The Chinese media stressed that he was a vigorous and energetic leader, saying that he was a keen swimmer and that "although advanced in years, Yang never sits long in his office". Yang was born in Sichuan Province, whence Deng Xiaoping also came. He was not of obvious revolutionary stock, coming from a wealthy landlord family. At the age of 18 he joined the Communist Youth League and a year later the Communist Party, working in

the underground student movement at Shanghai University. From 1927 until 1931, he studied in Moscow, and returned to take charge of communist propaganda in the trade unions and later to edit the *Red China* newspaper. In the mid-1930s he embarked on the gruelling Long March. Few women took part in that march, but one of them, Li Bozhao, would later become a playwrite and his wife. After the Communist victory, he rose through the political propaganda ranks of the military. But he fell foul of the Cultural Revolution. Red Guards accused him of bugging Chairman Mao's telephone, and lampooned him in wall posters listing in to prison conversations. He was arrested, condemned at a public rally or "struggle session", and thrown into prison from 1966 to 1978, one of the longest stretches of imprisonment suffered by any of the leadership. He was luckier than many, however, in that nobody in his family was killed. His wife, Li Bozhao, was arrested with him and made to clean latrines. She remained in poor health after their release and died in 1985. A few years after her death, when Yang Shangkun had become President, his name was linked with a 50-year-old Vice-Mayor of Peking, Wu Yi, but their rumoured romance came to nothing. Yang's son, Yang Shaomin, became a well-known photographer. He denied that his success had anything to do with nepotism, but his most successful pictures were portraits of Deng Xiaoping.

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By Rodney Hobson
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Pioneers harness local talent

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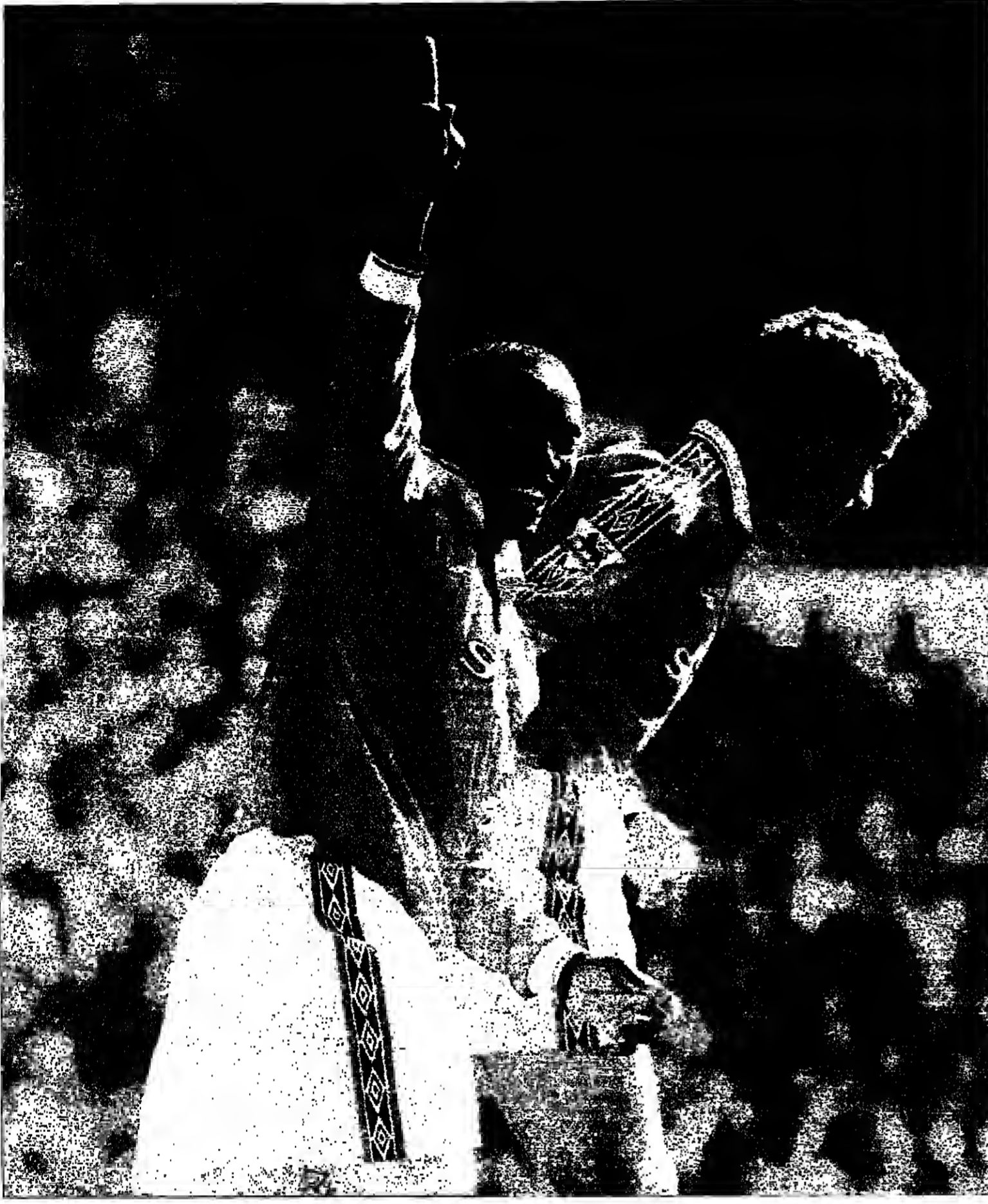
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colleagues want to get together and form a league, this is great fun for an office, school, pub or sports club. A minimum of five teams can form a league, and the chairman must send in the entry forms together. All teams entered into a Super League will automatically be entered into the main Fantasy League. You will be posted a detailed monthly report showing how you are all doing, against each other.

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You gotta have Harte - or Hartson

The first weekly prize of £500 has been won and the in-form players are emerging. Nick Szczepanik reports

The first two rounds of matches in the FA Carling Premiership that count in the Times Fantasy League have now been played, and today we publish the first list of the top hundred teams. Congratulations to Alan Featherstone who is the first weekly winner. From next week, a list of the top ten for the week will also be published.

Any entrants who decided on a forward partnership of Dwight Yorke and John Hartson must have been congratulating themselves by five o'clock on Saturday, when they learnt that their signings had each bagged a goal to add to their midweek efforts. Yorke, who is still listed as an Aston Villa player in the player lists (players remain registered with their original clubs for the duration of this season's Fantasy League), has managed three goals in the last two games - from fairly close range, admittedly, but they all count. Equally, Hartson was aided by a significant deflection off Jamie Carragher, of Liverpool, but, like those who chose him in their Fantasy League teams, will not be complaining.

Upon Park, in fact, was a happy hunting ground for forwards in last Wednesday's remarkable West Ham v Wimbledon game, with Ian Wright and Marcus Gayle each scoring twice and laying on another for a colleague to bag eight Fantasy League points (three for each goal and two for an assist) and Jason Euell taking five points for a goal and an assist.

Four goalkeepers, Mark Bosnich (Villa), Thomas Myhre (Everton), Nigel Martyn (Leeds) and Mark Schwarzer (Middlesbrough) kept the opposition out in both games and earned a maximum six points. Everton's encouraging defensive displays enabled Michael Ball, their left-back, to claim eight points, but the highest-scoring full-back was Ian Harte of Leeds United.

Harte gained six points from his team's two clean sheets but also scored one of his team's three midweek goals against Southampton, whose defenders, you will not be surprised to learn, are among the lowest-scoring players in the lists. Scott Marshall, in particular, must be wishing he had remained in Arsenal's reserve side after two own goals in five days.



FIRST WEEKLY WINNER The Fantasy League entrant who combined his selections most successfully was Alan Featherstone of Stafforshire, who becomes the first winner of the weekly prize of £500 plus £100 worth of sports equipment and, of course, the first leader of the main league table.

Yorke, Hartson and Harte were the main points-scorers in his selection, named Larlaridpsyteam, with some help from Ronny Johnsen, the Manchester United central defender who scored his side's second goal against Coventry, and none at all from Noel Whelan or David Howells. However, so close was the race for first place that even two-point contributions from Garry Filicorff and Lars Bohinen were crucial.

In the end, Mr Featherstone took the prize by a single point from Steven Moor of Rickmansworth, who scored 48. Martyn, Andy Hinchcliffe and Gary Pallister contributed six points each to his total, but Emile Heskey let the side down with only three points.

Table with columns for player names and points. Includes names like David Seaman, Laurent Charvet, Ian Harte, Frank Leboeuf, Ronny Johnsen, Gary Filicorff, Noel Whelan, Lars Bohinen, David Howells, and Dwight Yorke.



As I was saying . . .

Did you win the weekly prize, then? Not exactly. I think one or two of my players are still approaching full fitness after the World Cup, as it happens. Sorry? It's the middle of September. Tell Gianluca Vialli about it. He brought my man Brian Laudrup off against Arsenal and kept him on the bench until the nineteenth minute against Forest, so he obviously thinks he needs a bit of match practice. How's he going to get that if he's on the bench, then? Good question. I was also a little disappointed in Overmars. No goals in the two games last week, and no assists. You talked about Hinchcliffe last week. I remember. He scored another of his free-kicks against Blackburn, didn't he? I did speak about him, but, if you remember, I actually signed Paul Telfer as my dead-ball specialist. Did any of your players come up trumps? It's a sad tale of near misses, unfortunately. At first, when I looked at Saturday's results, I thought Dennis Irwin had earned me some points, but it turned out that he wasn't in the Manchester United defence that kept a clean sheet against Coventry. And Matt Elliott was on the point of a clean sheet bonus for Leicester until Stephen Hughes got a late equaliser for Arsenal. It sounds to be as if you need to make one of your famous forays into the transfer market. Well, hang on. You can only use 12 transfers this season, so you have to be as disciplined as a real manager. You can't just go splashing

imaginary money around. It will require careful thought and a bit of old-fashioned team-building. Hmm, there are one or two of those so-called real managers who couldn't possibly last a full season on only a dozen transfers. Barry Fry's head would explode. And you can't sign foreign players: what would Vialli and Gullit do? Funny you should ask. I've got a plan to see if Gazzetta dello Sport has a fantasy game and find out if you can hack into that through the internet or something, and suddenly sneak Oliver Bierhoff or Ronaldo in. I like your thinking, but surely there's another way, isn't there? How do you mean? You can enter more than one team, can't you? Pick another side with a different team name, then another a bit later with all the players who are on a roll. Yes, that's certainly worth thinking about. One problem is that I always have trouble thinking up team names. What is your team called, anyway? I'm not telling you. You'll laugh. I thought that was the idea with fantasy team names. They're all puns on real team names, like Bayern Munchkins, or Unreal Madrid or Leicester Pigott, aren't they, or things like Hell's Nigels. Mine's a bit different. What is it, then? "Your company name here." I doot understand. I'm trying to attract sponsorship.

FANTASY PLAYER OF THE WEEK



Harte of gold: A bargain Fantasy League buy at only £3.4 million. Ian Harte, the Leeds United and Republic of Ireland full-back, has outscored the rest of the FA Carling Premiership's defenders, thanks to two shutouts and a goal, even if it was only against Southampton.

FANTASY LEAGUE TOP 100

- List of 100 fantasy league teams with player names and points. Starts with Larlaridpsyteam (49 points) and includes teams like Protas Backlash, Champion Rovers, Jowjys XI, etc.

FANTASY QUIZ. Each week on these pages there will be a demanding test of your footballing knowledge (or a mild five-second diversion, according to your ability), set by our resident expert. Today: What do these four Fantasy League players have in common? Answer next week.

THE TIMES MAIN FANTASY LEAGUE ENTRY FORM

Form with sections for LUCKY DIP, player selection (Goalkeeper, Full-back, Centre-back, Midfielder, Forward), and team details.

HOW TO ENTER YOUR FANTASY LEAGUE TEAM

Instructions for entering a fantasy league team, including rules for team value, player selection, and submission details.

THE TIMES SUPER LEAGUE ENTRY FORM

Form for entering a Super League team, including personal details, team information, and payment options.

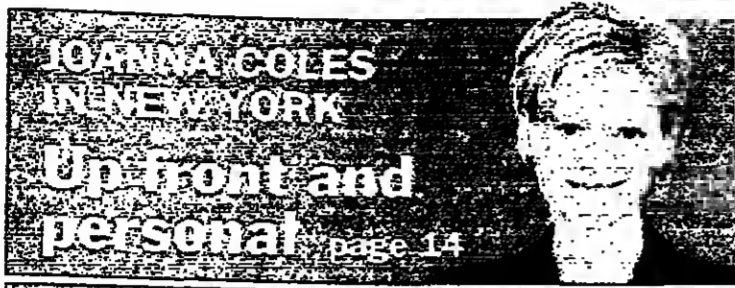
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http://www.the-times.co.uk



EDDIE GEORGE
NEW YORK
Up front and personal page 14

Love almost made Cook give up page 8



Life sense



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Plus PEOPLE & PROPERTY: twelve-page supplement Plus INTERFACE Plus CREME

No compromise in the TUC lions' den

Blair endorses George warning to unions

By ALASDAIR MURRAY AND JILL SHERMAN

TONY BLAIR lined up with the Governor of the Bank of England last night to deliver a double warning to the unions that economic policy would stay unchanged and interest rates could not yet be cut.

Both Eddie George, the first Governor to speak in the lion's den of the TUC conference, and the Prime Minister, who arrived afterwards for a dinner with union leaders, ruled out short-term measures. Mr Blair, rejecting union claims about the threat of recession, told them to "confront difficulties rather than exaggerate them".

Their uncompromising message came as union leaders seized on yesterday's fall in inflation to 2.5 per cent to demand immediate cuts in interest rates and relief for manufacturing industry. They accused the Bank of risking the jobs of a quarter of a million workers as it "sleepwalks into recession". In the City, the pound tumbled against the mark as traders bet on an early interest cut.

Mr George would only offer the hope that rates might have peaked. To the dismay of his listeners, he indicated that an early rate cut was not on the Bank's agenda because a rapid fall in inflation "is still not the most likely outcome" in the eyes of the Monetary Policy Committee.

However, he added: "There is no doubt in my mind that recent international developments have at least reduced the likelihood that we will need to tighten policy further."

Mr Blair said that the Government could not afford to take any short-term measures which would jeopardise long-term stability. "However hard it is in the short term we must never forget the long term," he said.

But he too hinted that interest

rates may have peaked at 7.5 per cent. Mr Blair said: "What is important is that interest rate decisions are made in the long-term interests of the economy. People should never forget that in the early 1990s interest rates were at 15 per cent for a year and manufacturing output fell by 7 per cent."

He argued that the Government could help to soften the impact of world economic problems in Britain by setting up an emergency fund for re-training workers, and asking firms to help in firms facing big losses or closures.

The Prime Minister will continue his message today in a keynote speech on the economy after a visit to Fujitsu in his Sedgefield constituency. But he will say that the job losses at the computer chip plant, which announced two weeks ago that it was going to shut, have to be put into perspective. More than 10,000 jobs had been created or saved in the North East because of inward investment over the last year and 400,000 jobs had been created nationally.

Union leaders said Mr Blair and Mr George had offered cold comfort to the struggling manufacturing sector. Ken Jackson, general secretary of the AEEU, said: "If the Monetary Policy Committee came into the real world with us they would know that interest rates have to come down."

Roger Lyons, general secretary of the MSF, called for a representative of the manufacturing sector to be added to the MPC because "Mr George does not seem to realise once you lose manufacturing jobs from the economy they do not return".

John Monks, TUC General Secretary, took a more conciliatory

tone, insisting that unions "can't ignore the risk of inflation" and that a too sharp fall in the pound "could trigger inflation". He added that unions were right to criticise the "one club approach" to monetary policy but had to face up to the fact alternatives would involve some "hard choices".

The Governor issued a plea to the unions to "turn down the noise" on interest rates and to consider the current position of the economy. He insisted that the Bank of England did "care about activity and jobs in all sectors" and that the Bank "will be just as rigorous in cutting rates" if inflation threatened to fall below target.

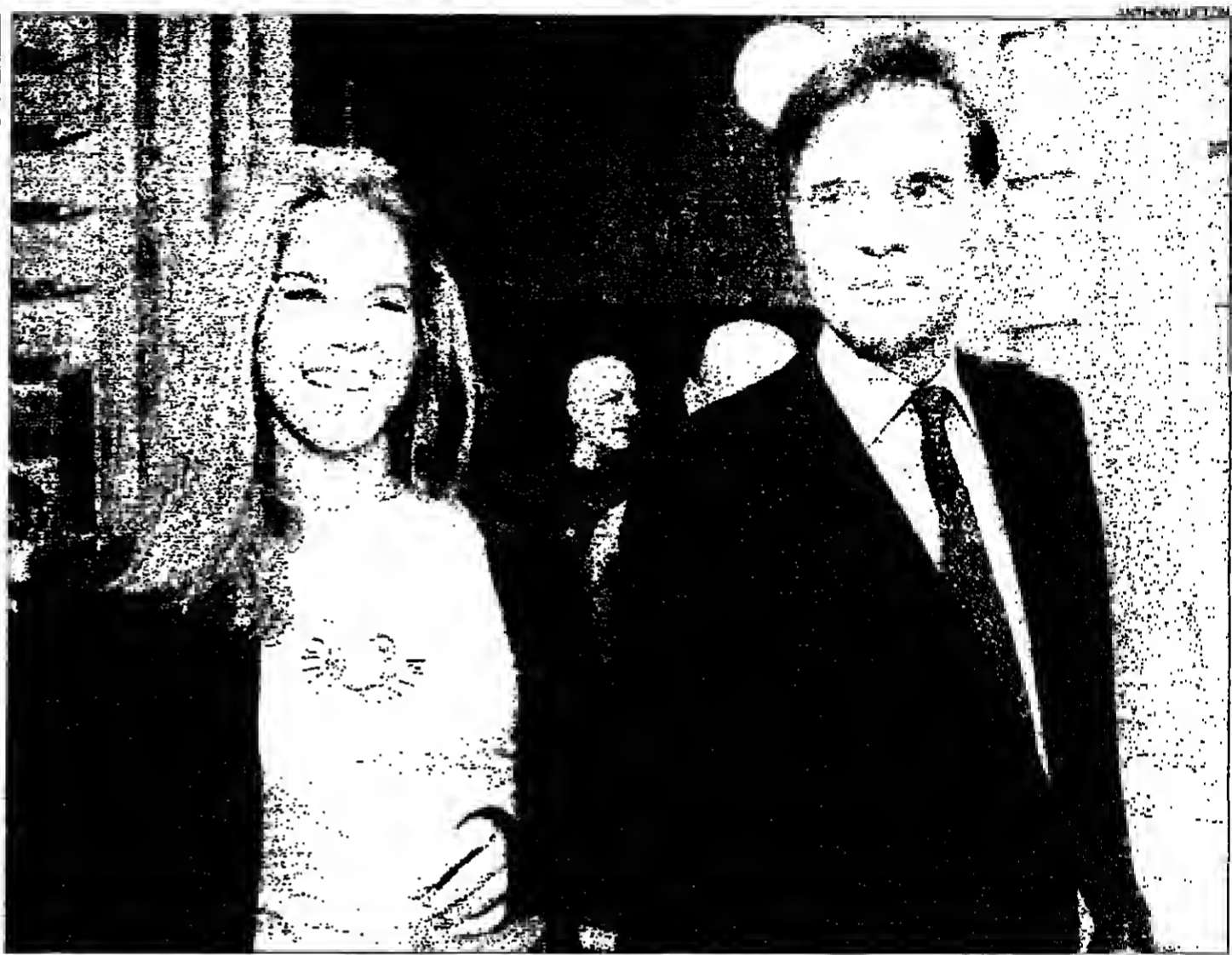
However, Mr George said that although the Bank was aware of the damage interest rate rises could inflict on the manufacturing sector it had no alternative without putting the whole economy at risk.

Pressure for an immediate rate cut was also increasing in the City, after the latest inflation figures showed underlying inflation falling from 2.6 per cent to 2.5 per cent in August — the first time it has hit its target level since January. Headline inflation also fell from 3.5 per cent to 3.3 per cent.

David Hillier, UK economist at Barclays Capital, said: "UK rates could be cut now without threatening the inflation target — a cut does not have to be justified by what is happening in the world markets."

However, other City economists were more sceptical that the Bank would lower rates until pay inflation falls sharply.

Simon Jenkins, page 16
Letters, page 17
Rate hint, page 21
TUC reports, page 22



Jonathan Aitken arriving at court with his daughter, Alexandria, to face charges of perjury and perverting the course of justice

Aitken in court to face perjury charge

By TIM JONES

JONATHAN AITKEN, the former Conservative Cabinet minister, yesterday appeared in court to face charges of perjury and perverting the course of justice.

The charges against Mr Aitken, 56, who was Chief Secretary to the Treasury in 1994-95, arise from the collapse of his libel action in June last year against *The Guardian* and Granada television's *World in Action* programme.

He was charged in May along with Said Mohammed Ayas, his former business associate.

Mr Aitken, who arrived for the hearing at Bow Street Magistrates' Court with his advisers and Alexandria, one of his 18-year-old twin daughters, was required to stand in

the dock with Mr Ayas as the charges were read out. Reporting restrictions were not lifted.

The men, both in dark business suits, spoke only to confirm their names. They face one joint charge of conspiring, along with Mr Aitken's estranged wife Lolita, to pervert the course of justice between April 9, 1995 and June 4, 1997 by signing false witness statements which were used in the libel action.

The falsehoods, the charge states, were that Lolita Aitken and Victoria Aitken, his daughter, had been to Paris prior to travelling to Geneva on September 17, 1993, and while in Paris had stayed in a flat belonging to the daughter of Said Ayas. In addition, that on September 19, 1993, Lolita Aitken was in Paris and there paid a money in

respect of the bill of Mr Aitken at the Ritz Hotel.

Mr Aitken alone faces three other charges. The first is that between April 9, 1995 and June 4, 1997, he did a series of acts tending and intended to pervert the course of justice by making a false statement which he allowed to be submitted in court evidence that Lolita Aitken had been in Paris on September 19, 1993 and paid 4,257 francs in part payment of a bill at the Ritz Hotel.

The next charge of doing acts tending and intended to pervert the course of justice states that Mr Aitken, between June 13 and 18, 1997, drafted a statement in the name of Victoria Aitken and obtained her signature for that statement which falsely said she and Lolita had travelled by ferry and train to Paris on September 16, 1993 and stayed overnight in the flat of the daughter of Said Ayas and that Victoria Aitken had spoken by telephone to her grandmother.

The final charge against Mr Aitken was one of perjury. It says that between June 4 and 14, 1997 having been lawfully sworn as a witness in the High Court libel action he wilfully made a statement which he knew to be false. It was that on September 19, 1993, Lolita was in Paris and had paid 4,257 francs to the Ritz Hotel in part payment of his bill.

Said Ayas faces one charge of doing acts tending and intended to pervert the course of justice. It is alleged he falsely claimed

Continued on page 2, col 7

Walking Australia in 69 days

By MARIA ALVAREZ

A DIABETIC is claiming a world record after walking across Australia. David Parker, a bookkeeper of Newport Pagnell, Buckinghamshire, raised more than £10,000 for the British Diabetic Association with his 2,600-mile trek from Perth to Sydney in 69 days, 11 hours and 28 minutes.

The undertaking, which may have broken a record of 77 days in *The Guinness Book of Records*, was his way of showing others with diabetes that the disease does not have to be crippling.

The walk took 10 months of training. During it Mr Parker had to test his blood seven times a day. He ate pasta, rice, vegetables and fruit and lost 22 kg of body weight.

Mr Parker will be back in England in six weeks looking for another record. "It's a drug. You can't stop. You want to do it again and do it better."

Dobson is snubbed over call to cut price of Viagra for NHS

By NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

VIAGRA, the impotence drug, will not be reduced in price so that the NHS can afford it, the manufacturers decided yesterday.

On Radio 4's *Today* programme Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, had earlier called for Pfizer to cut the price, apparently unaware that his officials had already agreed to the £4.84 a tablet suggested by the company.

Ken Moran, Pfizer's chairman, said firmly: "We will not lower the price." He added that the price of the pill was half that of existing impotence treatments and the same as that set in other countries where Viagra is licensed.

A price reduction in one country was undesirable because it would lead to people profiteering by buying in that country and exporting to others for resale, he said. The result of the government ban on prescribing Viagra on

the NHS, he said, was the "iniquitous position where the product is available to those men who are able to pay for their own treatment, but not to others".

The Government is in an awkward position, since less effective but more expensive treatments are already available on the NHS. Pfizer has produced a better remedy at a

lower price in a British laboratory and been rewarded by being excluded from the bulk of the market.

Roger Kirby, consultant urologist at St George's Hospital in London, said: "We are now in a position where we have to say to patients that we can't prescribe a £5 pill but can prescribe a £10 injection or put in a £2,500 prosthesis to cure erectile dysfunction."

Yesterday Pfizer was at pains to emphasise that Viagra is a cure for a real medical condition and not a fun drug designed to enable men to have more sex. They estimate that the cost of the drug to the NHS has been grossly overestimated. Mr Moran said that if all men with clinical erectile dysfunction were treated on the NHS, the cost would reach £50 million after five years. The NHS already spends £2 million a year on erectile dysfunction," he added.

Mr Dobson made it clear on Radio 4 that no more money

would be found for Viagra. "That money isn't there, so therefore we have to take the money away from maternity services for women having babies or people who are being treated for cancer or people who are being treated for heart disease," he said.

"Most people in this country don't think we should finance it through the health service as a sort of recreational drug at the expense of doing things which are more important."

How the Government will prevent doctors prescribing Viagra is not yet clear. There are two grounds on which drugs can be excluded from prescription — lack of clinical effectiveness, or high cost. Putting Viagra in either category would be hard to justify. Instead the Government hopes to limit prescriptions by defining as narrowly as possible the categories of patients who can have the drug.

Raising a glass, page 3
Leading article, page 17



"Impotence? No, I just can't read the label!"

Hague ballot under fire

Michael Heseltine branded William Hague's plan to ballot the Conservatives over the single currency an "irrelevance".

In a withering assault, he said that it would succeed only in "reinforcing the prejudices of minorities". Mr Heseltine broke his silence on the Tory leader's snap ballot after Mr Hague had called him and other pro-European elders a deluded elite. Page 2

Clinton videotape may go public

A videotape of President Clinton's grand jury testimony may be made public.

The House Judiciary Committee will decide how to issue the remaining two thousand pages of material and the videotape which was sent to Congress with the Starr Report. Page 11

Police raid bootleg bubbly factory

FROM BEN MACINTYRE
IN PARIS

FRENCH police have dismantled the "bubbly connection", a huge illegal trade in bootleg champagne that has allegedly flourished in the vineyards of northern France for more than a decade.

Last weekend the authorities raided a warehouse in Chalons-sur-Champagne in Epernay and came across an underground factory producing the illicit hooch.

As well as presses, vats and

other equipment the investigators discovered "rafafia", an aperitif made from champagne, and 35,000 bottles of unlabelled fizz which, police said, had a black market street-value of "several million francs".

Like all wine-making in France, the production of champagne is rigorously regulated and subject to high rates of tax. Producing champagne without a licence in unlabelled bottles is illegal but the authorities are uncertain whether the champagne

was being produced for private consumption or sale.

Police later arrested five people as they arrived at the site. All the suspects are members of the same family of expert champagne-makers who own a nearby vineyard of less than four acres.

"These are, in fact, champagne-lovers who did everything within the rules of the champagne-making art," one investigator said.

Police have yet to establish the provenance of the grapes used or where the black

market champagne was being sold. One possibility, they say, is that the alleged bootleggers collected excess grapes from various parts of champagne country and then sold the resulting drink to connoisseurs or café owners.

Another possibility is that the moonshine champagne was sold under the counter to larger producers who simply labelled it as their own, again in contravention of the rules.

Police sources in Epernay described the champagne as "definitely the real thing".

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Illegal black militant school investigated

Nation of Islam faces court action for teaching 60 pupils in community centre, reports Victoria Fletcher

THE militant black group that demonstrated at the Stephen Lawrence inquiry is to be investigated by the Government for running an illegal school in London.

The Nation of Islam, which aims to create a separate state for blacks, failed to register the 60-pupil school which has been operating from three rooms in a Hammersmith community centre since last November. The Department for Education and Employment has given the school one month to register or face court proceedings. Nation of Islam members could face a three-month prison sentence.

A spokesman for the department

said: "Because it is a private school it needs to be officially registered with us in order for us to ensure that the teachers are up to standard and allow inspectors to check on the educational standards maintained. If they fail to do this, we will issue a court order."

The department was tipped off about the school months before by Hammersmith and Fulham Council, but had apparently been reluctant to tackle the Nation of Islam about it.

David Willets, the Shadow Edu-

cation Secretary, said that ministers should have acted immediately. "It is shocking that the Government does nothing for two months and one wonders what their motivations were. If this school was a normal private school not associated with the Nation of Islam, they would have acted far more quickly."

The British wing of the Nation of Islam was founded in 1986 and part of its aims includes the creation of a separate black state for its 2,000 British members. Pupil numbers

at the organisation's three schools in Hackney and Shepherd's Bush are thought to have increased after a series of government reports over the past two years found that a disproportionate number of black pupils underachieved, and that black pupils were six times more likely to be excluded.

Lessons are thought to focus on African and Islamic subjects. Girls and boys are taught separately and both are encouraged to take GCSEs aged 16.

The department admitted that it had not asked the Nation of Islam about the school or its location. In November last year, the

Nation of Islam rented three rooms in a Hammersmith community centre for educational purposes. Soon after they moved in, the council realised the premises were being used to house a full-time school for more than 60 pupils.

"We warned them that it is not an appropriate place for them to be running a school and asked them to find alternative accommodation in August," Hammersmith and Fulham Council said.

Infuriated by the disruption a move would cause to pupils, mem-

bers of the school demonstrated outside Hammersmith Town Hall and have subsequently been offered longer to find alternative accommodation. "There is no debate that there is a school operating there," the council spokeswoman added.

A spokeswoman for Hammersmith and Fulham Council said that it had warned the department about the school. "We told them about it months ago. But if it is not registered as a private school, that is a job for the DFEE to investigate, not us."

"We told the department it was there and it is over to them."

Reader's Digest forced to sell art collection

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

FINANCIAL turmoil has forced the US publishers of *Reader's Digest* to sell its \$100 million art collection that includes works by Monet, Chagall and Van Gogh.

The philanthropic association, based in New York, is confronted with the harsh realities of Wall Street. Its founders, the *Reader's Digest* Association, bought one of the most expensive art collections in corporate America with proceeds from its journalistic anthologies which often condensed complex subjects to fit into a few pages.

However, circulation of its main publication has fallen below the minimum guaranteed to advertisers, and the company's share price has dropped while the stock market boomed.

New management is trying to salvage the association's self-proclaimed mission to promote beauty, in the form of good writing, by sacrificing the arguably greater beauty of its famous Impressionist paintings.

Sotheby's in New York will auction the paintings on November 16 and 17 at the height of the autumn auction season.

Computer giant IBM and CBS, the broadcaster, have recently complied with shareholders who wanted money in the bank rather than hanging

on the boardroom walls in the form of oil and canvas.

But *Reader's Digest* was not expected to follow the giant corporations down the same route towards the absolute dominance of accountants over artists.

The company sold a Monet and a Van Gogh for \$6.2 million last May.

Thomas Ryder, the executive chairman, said: "Our art collection is truly part of the heritage of the company. However, we can put the worth of these most valuable works to better and more effective use by investing in growth opportunities for the company."

Mr Ryder, who switched from American Express to *Reader's Digest* in April will be paid \$4.4 million over three years.

He was hired to inspire the company and he said nothing was sacred at the head office in Pleasantville, New York.

The art collection was started in the 1940s by Lila Acheson Wallace and DeWitt Wallace, the company founders.

Collecting was their passion. In their best-selling magazine, they compiled examples of the best writing from around the globe, and in their private archives they hoarded Impressionist masterpieces.



THIS picture of the heart of government shows an addition which might have made the pulse of earlier ministers race. Gordon Brown has become the first Chancellor of the Exchequer to install a personal computer on his desk (Valerie Elliott writes). In a room built in 1908 for ministers who used quills, Mr Brown now has two machines - the more sophisticated

Small change in Treasury

one is on test. He spends hours hunched over the monitor and keyboard, but if he wishes to write a personal note, a Victorian stationary cabinet to his left contains Treasury notepaper and envelopes. Mr Brown's black telephone has direct lines to

Treasury officials; the white one is for direct calls to No 10 and to his girlfriend, Sarah Macaulay. At the far end of the office, which will be open to the public on Saturday and Sunday as part of the Heritage Open Days, is an area where Mr Brown likes to study

the daily newspapers, often relaxing on the sofa or one of the easy chairs. Treasury officials said Anthony Barber, Chancellor under the Heath Government in 1970-74, was the first to occupy this room. But while the computers are new, the green banker's lamp and old-fashioned manual date-changer have been accoutrements of the office for nearly 30 years.

Murdoch is cuckoo in soccer's nest, TUC is told

BY JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association yesterday accused Rupert Murdoch of being a "TV cuckoo in football's nest" as he attacked the proposed takeover of Manchester United by BSkyB.

Speaking at the Trades Union Congress in Blackpool, Gordon Taylor said that the national game was becoming more business than sport. "The two worlds do not sit easily together and I feel that sport needs government protection from business."

He urged Tony Blair to draw up laws to "protect the integrity of sport" in the same way that other countries had created anti-trust laws to provide fair competition.

Mr Taylor said that he had been particularly concerned about the initial government response to the problems arising from the bid by Mr Murdoch, chairman and chief executive of The News Corporation, which he claimed presented an obvious conflict of interests. BSkyB is an associate company of The Times. He said anarchy would result if clubs were allowed to do their own deals outside the leagues.

The big clubs stood to gain more dominance through pay TV. "After all, pay TV is the reason behind Murdoch's desire to own Manchester United. He wants to force through his own interests by having influence on both sides of any negotiations - TV cuckoo in football's nest."

"Murdoch is not a union man but for football to continue as our national game both the interests of the leagues and the unions must be protected by government help."

Mr Taylor was not optimistic. He said it was bad enough that after waiting 20 years for a Labour Government that a discredited former Tory Cabinet minister (David Mellor) was leading a government taskforce into football.

The government had passed the buck on interest rates to the Bank of England and according to some reports was considering giving the powers to take decisions on takeovers to an independent commission. "Governments must govern. Was it Harry Truman who had a sign on his desk stating 'The buck stops here'?"

"New Labour should remember its roots and not spend so much time placating those at the other end of the political spectrum who would have them out of office tomorrow if they could."

TUC at Blackpool, page 22

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Heseltine says Hague ballot is irrelevant

BY ROLAND WATSON, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL Heseltine last night branded William Hague's plan to ballot the Tories over the single currency an "irrelevance" in a withering assault, he said it would succeed only in "reinforcing the prejudices of minorities".

As Mr Hague urged party members to use the vote to "put the antagonisms of the past behind us", the former Deputy Prime Minister said the plan was doomed.

He broke his silence on the Tory leader's snap ballot after Mr Hague had called him and other pro-European elders a "deluded elite. His intervention showed that Mr Hague's hope of drawing a line under the Tory civil war over Europe was already under strain."

Mr Heseltine said: "It's an appeal for loyalty to the leader which cannot succeed, an appeal directed towards the membership of a party trailing way behind in the polls."

The challenge for the Conservative Party is to win back the four million people who voted for either the Labour or the Liberal party, both of which campaigned on a pro-European ticket. Reinforcing the prejudices of minorities has limited prospect of success in a bid to rejoin a majority."

His comments marked the opening night of Mr Hague's tour of the country in which he called for an end to the internal divisions over Europe which had and "paralysed"



Heseltine said ballot would bolster prejudices

the party in recent years. Mr Hague launched his own attack on the pro-Europeans in the Tory ranks, saying the days when a "small elite" in the party acted without reference to members was over.

He hit out at those pro-Europeans who were "steady enough in the past to appear on our television screens attacking party policy" but who were ignoring the referendum.

"If you decide party democracy is unnecessary, and if you treat this ballot as irrelevant, then you will be making yourselves irrelevant." Mr Hague told activists in Plymouth last night.

Mr Clarke, the former Chancellor, has already said he will take no part in the ballot. Mr Patten, the former Hong Kong governor, and Tory chairman, said he will vote against Mr Hague's policy of ruling out entry into the single currency for this Parliament and the next.

Mr Heseltine said last night he had "not given it a lot of thought. It's an irrelevance."

Appeal for family of Arnhem soldier

BY STEPHEN FARRELL

THE ARMY was last night hoping to trace relatives of a Second World War soldier who will be buried without any next of kin at its graveside unless a last-minute public appeal succeeds.

The body of Corporal George Froud, 27, will be laid to rest with full military honours at the Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemetery in Oosterbeek, Holland, on Friday, more than 50 years after he died at Arnhem. He was posted missing on September 21, 1944, but his remains were not found until last year during building work in a garden in Lennepweg, near Oosterbeek.

The Army identified him from his Border Regiment insignia, beret with the name Froud inside and a cigarette case with the initials GF.

However, a search by the Ministry of Defence failed to trace any relatives.

Army records show that Cpl Froud married Vera Frances Jey in February, 1940, while living in Goring-by-Sea, West Sussex. They had a son, Terrance, who was adopted, the Army believes, by Mrs Froud's sister Winnie who is thought to have married a man named Marsh. Cpl Froud's wife Vera remarried in July 1952, and took the name Harris and is thought to have moved to the Oxford area.

Glider pilots Sergeant David Thompson, 27, and Sergeant Laurence Howes, 28, will also be buried. Their bodies were found four years ago in Sonenberg and their relatives will attend the service.

Aitken in court on perjury charges

Continued from page 1

that Leticia and Victoria Aitken had stayed in the Paris flat of her daughter.

It is claimed also that he lied when he claimed he saw Leticia Aitken on September 19, 1993, in the Ritz hotel and was told by her she had paid the bill of her husband.



Said Aitken leaving court after yesterday's hearing

The hearing was adjourned until Monday, October 19.

Although Mrs Aitken is named in the indictment, she has not been charged. She split up from her husband following the collapse of the libel trial and is understood to be abroad.

At the end of the proceedings, Mr Aitken and his daughter faced a scrum of photographers and reporters as they left the court building. They smiled at the cameras as they walked the 20 yards through the rain in their car, but said nothing.

Loire

Said Aitken leaving court after yesterday's hearing

سكزا من الذاهل

Loire valley raises a glass to Viagra



A white metal fence topped with razor wire surrounds Viagra City, a jumble of 100ft high windowless buildings. Drug factory overshadows the history and the Vouvray wine of Amboise

Words: DANIEL McGRORY Pictures: PETER NICHOLLS

EXPLICIT drawings decorate the Château de Amboise left by Leonardo da Vinci after a lifetime studying the human body. But the master of invention could not have imagined the improvement to the male form now on offer in this town on the banks of the Loire. A mile from where Leonardo spent his last days and where for two centuries French kings held court, Pfizer, the chemical conglomerate, is pumping out Viagra pills by the million. Local dignitaries are perturbed that tour guides are already calling Amboise "Viagra Valley" and that an impotence pill is more sought after than the Vouvray and the rest of its wines.

Christopher Jones, director of the mayor's office said yesterday: "There is passionate interest in Viagra at the moment, but we hope it will fade away when the frenzy dies down. We appreciate what it's worth to our economy, but we want Château Amboise to be a bigger draw than Château Pfizer."

You can see the chemical plant from the Gothic ramparts of the château, much of it built in the 15th century by Charles VIII, who spent his childhood here. Sprawled out for about half a mile alongside the Loire is Viagra City, a jumble of warehouses, storage tanks and laboratories barri-

aded behind white metal fencing topped with razor wire. A line of plane trees is dwarfed by grey pre-fabricated windowless buildings 100ft high. Video cameras and security guards usually deter the curious, but yesterday plant director Jean Lhoste wanted to show off what he describes as "the most successful and exciting drug of all time". Producing a blue and white packet from his pocket, M Lhoste said: "We will make tens of millions of these a year, working around the clock, to satisfy Europe, Africa and the Middle East. Frankly we can't keep up with demands."

Aware of the rising excitement and the risible reputa-

tion Viagra is acquiring, M Lhoste said: "Remember we are making a true medicine, not a fun drug, though of course we want to make money."

Consignments leave in unmarked lorries to deter hijackers, and the first supplies to Britain were sent a week ago in secret.

M Lhoste says it is impossible to stop every tablet from going astray. "We do not snoop on our 640 staff. We trust them and they are aware of their responsibilities." But he admitted that Pfizer may introduce surveillance cameras on Viagra production lines. There, staff are clad in white overalls, masks and

shower caps for their own protection. "They are not embarrassed about what they're handling, it's just another drug to them," he said.

The local men are indignant, however, that the location of this plant suggests they may have a particular need for Viagra's properties. At the pharmacist's nearest the factory, Michel Grosdemange said no one has been asking him for Viagra, but he does regularly have to top up the condom machine outside of his shop.

Over bottles of Amboise's more traditional and convivial export last night, businessman Henri Paulet said: "The men here do fine on our wines, and our women have no complaints as far as I know."

The town's mayor, Bernard Debré, is more appreciative than most of Viagra's worth as he is a professor of urology at a Paris university hospital. The son of a former French prime minister, he is irritated by the jokes about the drug and of Amboise being called the erection section of the French economy.

Pfizer's recent \$55 million investment to accommodate Viagra's production meant another 150 jobs at a time when vineyards in the region are gently shedding numbers. Christopher Jones said: "We do not have any environmen-



The Amboise warehouse from where the millions of Viagra pills are distributed

tal worries about what the plant might do to our grapes. We don't breathe in Viagra, though perhaps some might want to."

Amboise has been an important site since prehistoric times. The Celts and the Romans appreciated its strategic significance and in the 11th century three lords fought a 20-year war for control of this route along the Loire. Work on the château originally began

in the 12th century but it was Charles VIII and his childhood attachment to Amboise that was responsible for much of what remains.

In 1498, the excitable young king was taking his queen to see a game of chess when he hit his head on a lintel of a door and died within nine hours. His successors, Louis XII and François I, continued to build at Amboise but without the same passion. François

occasionally installed his court there but put it at the disposal of Leonardo da Vinci who lived there from 1516 for the last three years of his life. He brought the *Mona Lisa* and other favourite works with him. He is buried in the heart of the castle.

Last night the occupants of Amboise were considering the consequences of what its new product could bring back to life.



Amboise Viagra plant director Jean Lhoste

“We will make tens of millions of these a year, working around the clock, to satisfy Europe, Africa and the Middle East. Frankly we can't keep up with demands.”

Hot-blooded Europeans will pay to protect their reputation

FRANCE is awaiting the arrival of Viagra with bated breath (Susan Bell writes). Contrary to their reputation as the world's greatest lovers, it is estimated that nearly three million, or one in ten, French men suffers from sexual problems ranging from lack of libido to complete impotence. Yesterday, *France Soir* and *Le Parisien* trumpeted the news of the drug's approval across their front pages. However *la pilule d'amour* will not actually be in the pharmacies until early October when a stampede is confidently predicted.

FRANCE Viagra, which will retail at Fr60 a tablet, will be available only on prescription and will not be reimbursed by social security. Stocks of France's natural alternative, Tigra, sold out in the first week when it was launched in July. Jean-Louis Galland, a chef, has been prosecuted for serving Viagra sauce in his restaurant in Thonon-Les-Bains, which was offered as an accompaniment to the médaillons de boeuf.

GERMANS have been flooding to Switzerland to buy Viagra (Roger Boyes writes). It sells for about £270 for 30 and in Poland "Viagra tourists" pay about £50 for three pills on the black market. Germany's Viagra policy is fuzzy. Health ministry officials assumed yesterday that the country would follow the European Union, which has authorised the marketing of Viagra. The German Federal Chamber of Physicians — which advises the health minister — has ruled that the drug should not be subsidised by

GERMANY state insurance. Eight million German men suffer from potency problems. Health experts calculate that if the men took the £9 pill twice a week, the health insurance budget would rise to more than £6 billion a year. The question is whether this ruling could be upheld in court. One court has already decided that a patient should have his insurance costs covered for treatment with a similar drug.

VIAGRA will be available in Italy in December for about £6 a pill, after the Italian ministry of health completed bureaucratic procedures to comply with both the Brussels directive and Italian regulations (Richard Owen writes). It is classed as a Band C pharmaceutical, for which the patient has to pay the full cost privately. Drugs are strictly controlled in Italy: only 5,500 are on the approved register, compared with 35,000 in Britain and 50,000 in the United States. Despite the macho image of the

ITALY Italian male magazines have run repeated cover stories on what they claim is a widespread impotence problem. Eighty per cent of Italian men questioned in one poll this week said they had heard of Viagra. Of those, 10 per cent said they would consider taking it, but 30 per cent thought it would be "far too harmful or dangerous". In Pisa, moves to pull the Leaning Tower upright have been dubbed the Viagra plan.

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Viagra tablets come in three sizes: 25, 50 and 100 mg.

The name came 'off the shelf' — it means nothing.

Each 100mg tablet costs the National Health Service £5.85, 50mg tablets cost £4.84 and 25mg tablets are £4.15 each. They come in packs of four or eight.

Known side-effects of Viagra include headaches, flushing of the face, indigestion and odd colour brigs in vision.

Viagra does not react with alcohol, but drinking is not recommended as it can impair erections.

Viagra must not be taken more than once a day because this risks greater side effects.

It takes an hour to work, though some men respond in as little as 25 minutes. Three-quarters of men who take the drug have reported better erections.

Available: Now, over the counter
NHS: No
Price: £9 each

Available: 3 to 4 weeks
NHS: No
Price: £6

Available: End of year
Decision on price and guidelines in 90 days

Available: Oct 5 with local prescription
NHS: No decision
Price: n/a

Available: Soon, with local prescription
NHS: Yes
Price: n/a

Available: 1st week October, with UK prescription
NHS: No
Price: £6

Available: No date
NHS: No
Price: estimate £9

Available: October
NHS: Yes
Price: n/a

Available: End of September
NHS: Not yet
Price: £6

Available: December
NHS: No
Price: £6

Available: 2 to 3 weeks
NHS: No
Price: £3

Available: Asap, with local prescription
NHS: decision in 6 months
Price: decision in 6 months

Available: Asap
NHS: No decision
Price: n/a

Available: Two weeks
NHS: yes
Price: £4.60 for 25mg

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Police Superintendents' Conference

DNA detectives will fit a face to a flake of skin

A SINGLE flake of dandruff will soon be enough for scientists to build up a criminal's photofit, police commanders were told yesterday.

Experts believe they will be able to create "genetic e-fits", using information gleaned from a DNA sample to build a picture of a suspect's race, build, eye and hair colour, and even behavioural characteristics.

Within a year, forensic scientists will be able to take DNA samples from minute scraps of skin left at the scene of a burglary and from such surfaces as the steering wheel of a stolen car, the keyboard of a computer and the outside of a drink can. They will be able to identify DNA from the wrappings round illegal drugs that dealers and couriers had hidden in their bodies.

The photofit will be available within a decade. It will include the height of the suspect and other details including the shape of the ears and chin and inherited physical defects.

The DNA advances were forecast yesterday by Kevin Sullivan, DNA research and

Stewart Tendler on how science is catching up with the criminal

development manager for the Forensic Science Service, speaking to the annual conference of the Police Superintendents' Association in Bristol. He said that genetic profiling was the "Holy Grail" for scientists but would be achieved within ten years, aided by international work on gene identification.

Dr Sullivan, who worked on the identification of the remains of the last Tsar, Nicholas II, said that the breakthrough in taking DNA samples from dandruff would allow investigators to take material from the tiny parti-

cles of human skin that are found at every scene. He said: "People are constantly shedding skin cells. The majority of household dust is made up of dead skin and we know we can get DNA from an individual skin cell."

He said that an armed robber could be tracked down by DNA evidence taken within 12 months from flakes of dandruff left behind in a discarded baladeva. It is a person's DNA, contained in every cell in the body, which predicts an enormous range of characteristics including skin, hair and eye colour, bone structure and even propensity to some illnesses and personality traits.

He told the conference that DNA testing had become "1,000 times more sensitive" in the past decade. Whereas ten years ago scientists needed a bloodstain the size of a 10p piece to conduct a test, they now required just a pin-prick invisible to the naked eye.

DNA samples would soon be used to re-examine unsolved sex cases and could even be used in miscarriage-of-justice cases. Scientists were

working on ways of extracting DNA from sperm samples taken many years ago and still being stored.

New developments meant it was possible to identify bodies that had been hidden for some time. DNA can be taken from hair shafts in the skull, from bone and faeces and matched with the mothers of possible victims.

Work was developing on portable DNA testing facilities which could be used at the

scenes of crimes to speed up investigations.

Dr Sullivan said mass screening in major inquiries had grown. Since the first screening in 1987, in a double murder case in Leicestershire, there had been 91 screening operations in Britain involving 26,000 samples. Offenders were identified in 30 cases and in one case a suspect walked into a police station and gave himself up when DNA screening was announced by police.

Dr Sullivan said that in the next five years scientists would improve the collection of DNA samples from blood and saliva left on surfaces such as cigarettes.

Further work on identifying DNA in animals would begin next year. He said this could be used to solve crimes against humans. Children who were assaulted sometimes left hairs from their pets on the clothing of their attackers, which could be used to identify suspects.



Robert Smith, whose daughter's killer was caught after mass DNA tests, addressing the conference yesterday against a backdrop of her picture.

Pain will never end, says father of murdered girl

BY STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

THE father of a murdered girl whose killer was caught by DNA testing said yesterday that the £1.25 million cost of the inquiry was nothing compared with the human cost being paid by her family.

Robert Smith said that he and his wife would never get over the devastation caused by the abduction, rape and murder of their daughter, Louise, 18, who vanished on Christmas Day, 1995.

"The knowledge that Louise was dead was bad enough, but to know what she had been subjected to was, and still is, unbearable. We thought then of her terror, her pain and the violation she endured to satisfy someone's selfish, cowardly and depraved desires," he said. "Louise's suffering is something that is always with us, and always will be."

David Frost, an engineering student, was sentenced to life imprisonment in February after investigations involving 700 officers. Miss Smith had disappeared on her way home from a nightclub at Yate near Bristol. Her body was found nearly two months later in a quarry but it took two years to catch Frost.

Detective Superintendent John Newman, of Avon and Somerset police, said yesterday that DNA samples were recovered from the scene where the body was found despite the effects of the

weather over eight weeks. Police then began what at the time was the largest mass screening and asked for mouth swabs from 4,500 local men. Each swab cost £41.50 to analyse and the bill for screening came to £250,000. Frost had left Britain but was swabbed in South Africa and brought back for trial. He admitted the killing.

Mr Smith, speaking as family photographs of his daughter were projected on a screen behind him, said that the only thing which kept the family living in the weeks after her death was a determination to see her killer caught. But despite their elation at Frost's conviction, Mr Smith, 51, said that since the trial the family no longer had a goal to "keep them going".

He said that he and his wife were still suffering from depression. "Christmas is the worst time. We have nothing to celebrate and the festivities which others are enjoying seem to be mocking us." Last month Miss Smith would have been 21.

"It was hard to believe one person could cause so much harm and misery but that is what murder does."

Mr Smith said there was no "coming to terms" with such a crime. "The anger generated by what happened is indescribable and has not diminished with time. In fact, it has intensified."

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Vertical text on the right edge of the page, partially cut off. Includes 'Couple missing with fo...', 'childr...', and 'So in aff...'. There is also a small photo of a woman's face in the middle of this column.

Handwritten Arabic text at the bottom center: 'هكذا من الاجل'.

سورة الاحقاف



Pain will never end. says father of murdered girl

Couple go missing with foster children

By Deborah Colcutt

POLICE are searching for a childless couple who disappeared with their two foster children after being summoned to a meeting with social workers.

It is feared that Jeffrey and Jennifer Bramley, from Ramsey, Cambridgeshire, may have fled in the belief that the two sisters, Jade and Hannah Bennett, were about to be taken away from them. The couple are believed to have wanted to adopt the girls.

The Bramleys, who have looked after Jade, 4, and Hannah, 3, since March were telephoned on Sunday evening by Cambridgeshire County Council social services department. They were reported missing after failing to turn up for the meeting the next morning in Huntingdon.

Police and social services described the Bramleys as being in a distressed state. Their disappearance is being treated as a missing persons inquiry and all sea and airports have been put on alert.

Police searched the couple's house and confirmed that their car and passports were missing. Liz Railton, the director of Cambridgeshire social services, said her department had tried to act in the best interests of the children.

"That has meant we have had to make some decisions which were distressing to the couple. I am entirely clear in my own mind that we have acted properly."

She said nothing had happened to indicate to social workers that the couple were about to disappear. Their nat-

ural mother has been kept informed of the search.

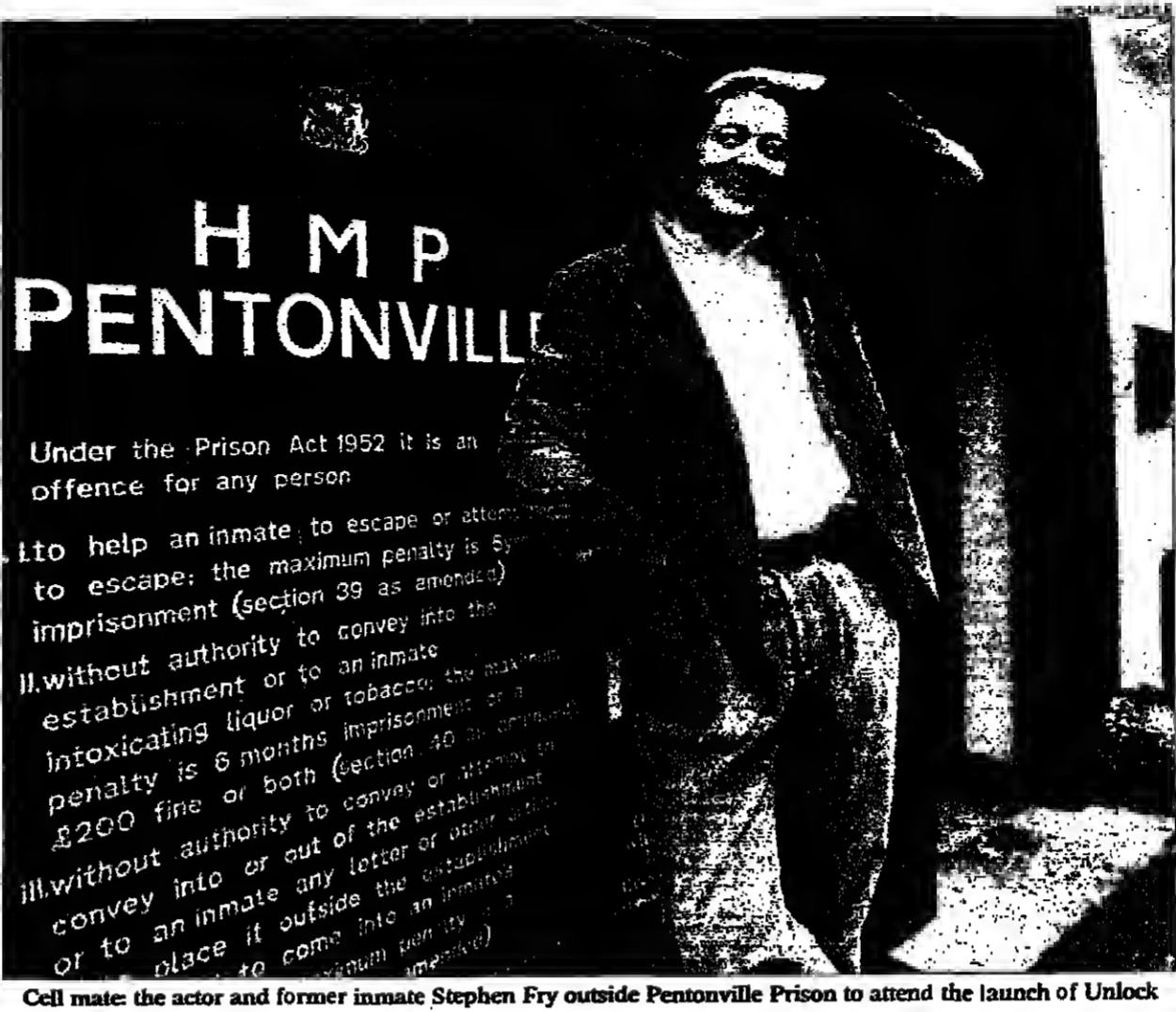
Mr Bramley, a Royal Mail worker in Peterborough, rang his office on Monday to say he would not be coming in because he was ill. Since then the four have not been seen. Ms Railton said: "We are concerned because of the couple's distress and their disappearance without warning or trace."

"There has never been any concern that Mr and Mrs Bramley would physically harm these children. Staff in the social services have been trying to support the couple for a couple of months."

Mr and Mrs Bramley are on the social services approved foster parent list. Neighbours said they seemed to be devoted to the two girls. One said: "The children seemed very happy and they were often out playing with them. They doted on the children."

Sergeant Chris Skepper of Cambridgeshire Constabulary said: "I would urge anyone who knows where they might have gone or who saw them leave to come forward. I am concerned for all four people, but in particular for the two young girls."

The couple are thought to have left in a blue Honda Concerto, registration G152 SHR. Jade is said to have fair hair and blue eyes. She is about 3ft tall, sturdy and has a mole on her right cheek. Hannah has fair to light brown hair, blue eyes and is about 2ft 9in. She is also of sturdy build.



HMP PENTONVILLE

Under the Prison Act 1952 it is an offence for any person

to help an inmate, to escape or attempt to escape; the maximum penalty is 5 years imprisonment (section 39 as amended) without authority to convey into the establishment liquor or tobacco; the maximum penalty is 6 months imprisonment or a £200 fine or both (section 40 as amended) without authority to convey or attempt to convey into or out of the establishment or to an inmate any letter or other article or to place it outside the establishment or to come into an inmate's possession.

Cell mate: the actor and former inmate Stephen Fry outside Pentonville Prison to attend the launch of Unlock

Fry goes back to jail for launch of ex-convicts' group

By Richard Ford, Home Correspondent

THE comic actor Stephen Fry visited Pentonville prison yesterday to launch an "old boys' association" for ex-convicts aimed at helping them stay out of trouble on their release. Fry, who spent several months on remand in a Young Offender Institution after going on a spending spree with a stolen credit card, is the director of the new organisation, Unlock.

He told inmates and staff at the prison, in North London, that he had survived his months in the YO1 at Pucklechurch near Bristol because he had been educated at an English public school. Fry, 40, who is related to the well-known 19th-century prison reformer, Elizabeth Fry, said he had been happiest while in prison when he was helping others, including assisting a young offender from Wales to learn to read. He recalled being nicknamed "the Professor" by other inmates and spending three hours a week in the chapel playing the piano and practising hymns for services. "The

best way to make people feel worthwhile is to get them to do something for other people. That is what Unlock aims to do," he said.

Unlock wants to give offenders the chance to offer advice to the Government and the Prison Service on what is needed to help offenders in jail or on their release. It aims to provide a discharge package for every prisoner, giving basic details about benefits, housing, employment and how to manage a budget.

The organisation, whose president is Sir Stephen Turnin, the former chief inspector of prisons, also wants ex-offenders to join prison visiting boards.

Richard Tilt, director general of the Prison Service, welcomed the organisation, which was the idea of Mark Leech, a former prisoner. Mr Tilt said: "We need to make use of the expertise of people who have come out of prison and have made a success of turning away from crime. They know what needs to be done far better than we do."



Hannah and Jade Bennett, who were reported missing after their foster parents failed to attend a meeting

Doctor left after 'botched' surgery

By Deborah Colcutt

A GYNAECOLOGIST perforated a patient's bladder during a botched hysterectomy operation, left her bleeding and failed to investigate the cause, the General Medical Council was told yesterday.

It was claimed that Rodney Ledward, 58, a consultant, had switched off his mobile telephone after leaving the hospital, having ordered a test. A sister at the Bupa St Saviour's Hospital in Hythe, Kent, was unable to make contact with Mr Ledward and was forced to call Dr John Davis, a gynaecologist from the nearby William Harvey Hospital in Ashford.

Dr Davis told the hearing in central London that he had tried to contact Mr Ledward when he observed that the patient required urgent surgery. He said: "I tried him three times on his mobile, which said it was switched off. The next day, he told me his mobile phone had not been working on the coastal road." Mr Ledward is accused of 14 counts of misconduct at William Harvey and St Saviour's between 1989 and 1996. He denies the charges. He was dismissed from the South Kent Hospitals NHS Trust.

Son died in flames after row at party

By A Correspondent

A MOTHER thought her 24-year-old son was going to give her a hug after an argument. But as he walked past a lighted candelabra, James Jenvey's petrol-soaked shirt burst into flames, an inquest was told yesterday.

Mr Jenvey, a trainee supermarket manager, had deliberately spilt the fuel on his clothes after an argument with his girlfriend, Lisa Barry, 19, during a dinner party at his mother's country home. He suffered 60 per cent burns in the accident at the thatched cottage at Breamore, Hampshire, and died three days later.

Detective Sergeant Robert Bowness told the hearing in Southampton that during the row, Mr Jenvey had pushed Miss Barry onto the kitchen floor. His mother, Eunice Jenvey, 47, had called him a bully and, when he threatened to pour petrol on himself and set light to it, had said: "Go on then, I'll get the matches." Some time later, Mr Jenvey had walked towards her as if to give her a cuddle. "It was then that he burst into a ball of flame."

More than forty firefighters battled in vain for more than five hours to put out the blaze, which eventually destroyed the cottage. DS Bowness stressed there was no evidence that Mr Jenvey had been suicidal. Recording a verdict of accidental death, Keith Wiseman, the Southampton coroner, said: "I don't think the matters in the dispute have any direct bearing on what occurred." He added: "I would like those present not to feel any responsibility or blame for what occurred on the evening in question. It is quite clear what happened was an accident in the truest sense of the word."

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Plans to end the Bar's monopoly split profession

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE legal profession divided yesterday over proposals to curb its restrictive practices. A leading QC said the Lord Chancellor's plans to give the Government final control over who appeared in the courts amounted to a "quiet constitutional revolution". Sydney Kentridge said the proposals had the potential to destroy the independence of the legal profession. However, the Law Society, representing solicitors, came out strongly in support of the plans, which will see an end to the Bar's near-monopoly of advocacy rights in the Crown Court and above. It said the proposals, outlined by Lord Irvine of Lairg in a consultation paper in June, would improve consumer choice and called on the Government to press ahead with legislation. In his opinion commissioned for the Bar, which has been sent to the Lord Chancellor, Mr Kentridge says that for 700 years authority over court advocates has ultimately resided in the judges. The proposals would erode that authority and the independence of the Bar. "It is no exaggeration to characterise the proposals in the consultation paper as amounting to a constitutional revolution."

says, the judiciary would no longer have the power to decide who may appear before them, just a right to be consulted. "It would remove from the judiciary a power and function which has been exercised by the judges in this country for some hundreds of years and would transfer it to the executive."

Lord Irvine is also proposing an end to the veto now enjoyed by senior judges over who should have the right to present cases in the courts.

Russell Wallman, director of policy at the Law Society, observing that Lord Irvine's proposals would enable more solicitors to exercise rights of audience, said the new system of deciding who should have such rights was also to be welcomed.

The Legal Action Group also strongly endorsed Lord Irvine's proposals yesterday. The group, which represents legal aid lawyers and advice workers, said that the "ultimate decision-making power should rest with the Lord Chancellor, in his capacity as government minister, not as head of the judiciary."

The Bar is not opposed to allowing trained solicitors into the higher courts, but it is against allowing lawyers employed by the Crown Prosecu-

tion Service to be allowed into the Crown Court, arguing this would undermine the independence of the prosecution process.

Mr Kentridge says that Lord Irvine's consultation paper cites many reasons for extending advocacy rights in the higher courts beyond the Bar. "But it gives no reason whatever why the judges should be regarded as no longer fit to carry out their centuries-old constitutional function in regard to rights of audience and professional discipline."

He adds: "If these proposals become law, they will obviously increase the power of the Government to control the legal profession and, therefore, the judicial process."

Under the proposed regime, he says, any professional conduct rule of the Bar that affects advocacy rights may not be changed without the Lord Chancellor's consent and the Lord Chancellor, after consultation, may change those rules without the consent either of the Bar or of the judges.

"I suggest this would seriously undermine the independence of the Bar and could, in the hands of another Lord Chancellor less committed to the independence of the Bar, entirely destroy it."



Lieutenant Kate Cotterill in a blouson while the actress Jemma Redgrave keeps to tradition

Salvation Army puts new styles on parade

By CLAUDIA JOSEPH

THE Salvation Army has introduced blouson jackets and jumpers amid efforts to combat its Victorian image and falling membership. Epulettes and badges denoting rank are to go and hats will no longer be compulsory. The changes come after 2,200 members of the public were asked about their perceptions of the Salvation Army. An image of blouses and brass bands persists. While the blouses and jumpers will be worn by members on community work, the navy blue suits introduced in the Sixties are being retained for parades for the time being. However, dress for formal occasions is also under review.

The Salvation Army, which was formed in 1865 by William Booth, a Methodist minister, to tackle poverty, introduced its uniform in 1879 to aid "unity and recognition". Until the 1960s women wore fitted jackets, skirts and bonnets and men wore tunics and trousers. These were replaced by a two-piece suit which costs up to £200. Bonnets were replaced by felt hats.

The latest change comes after younger members had begun customising their outfits. The blouson will cost £35.99.

At its peak in 1948, the Salvation Army had 120,000 members but numbers have declined steadily and now stand at 43,000.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Man held over boy's murder

Detectives investigating the murder of the Norfolk schoolboy Thomas Marshall yesterday arrested a local man aged 50. Thomas, 12, went missing from his home in Happisburgh in August 1997 after telling his parents that he was going to meet a friend on his bicycle. His body was found 24 hours later, 50 miles away in a wooded picnic area on the A11 near Theford. He had been strangled.

Police said that the man being questioned, who has not been named, lived in north Norfolk and was being held at North Walsham police station.

Freedom move

A paedophile won the right in the High Court to challenge the legality of a decision by the North Thames Mental Health Review Tribunal to keep him in hospital. Trevor Holland, 54, is described by the authorities as violent and a risk to society.

Passenger row

A plane carrying 120 holiday-makers from Malaga to Dublin made an unscheduled landing at Bristol after two passengers became unruly. The two, both from Dublin, made their own way home after being arrested and released without charge.

Crash deaths

Sharon Sheehan, 23, and her sister Fiona, 19, died after a lorry and a mini-van carrying special-needs pupils collided in Arklow, Co Wicklow, in the Irish Republic. Jackie Kavanagh, 50, the bus driver, Robert Cullen, 12, and Kevin O'Leary, 11, also died.

Not so noisy

Complaints about noisy neighbours rose only slightly last year after a ten-year run of increasing anger over loud stereos, barking dogs and other nuisances, the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health conference in Harrogate was told.

Bittern boost

A scheme to lure the Bittern back to the Norfolk Broads has been given an £80,000 grant by Anglian Water. Only one Bittern call has been heard in the region this year. The money will be used to create reed beds at Strumpshaw Fen near Norwich.

Jail key alert

Locks at Strangeways prison, Manchester, are to be changed after officials realised that a four-year-old information video featured close-ups of keys being used in cell-door locks. There are fears that the video could help anyone trying to make copies.

Action promised over Net racism

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE National Criminal Intelligence Service is to play a central role in efforts to curb the spread of racist and other illegal material on the Internet, Jack Straw has indicated. The Home Secretary said that the Internet was "vulnerable to abuse because websites and newsgroups are accessible from across international borders". Many of the far right and neo-Nazi websites originate from the United States, Canada, Germany and Scandinavia. The Home Secretary said it was essential that governments co-operated to assist in the removal of illegal material and in the prosecution of its originators.

NCIS, which has been working with other police forces around the world to break up child pornography rings, submitted a report on other illegal uses of the Internet to the Government this year. A spokesman said: "We

have identified racism as a potential problem and made recommendations for a strategy for law enforcement on the Internet. When information is passed to us about material published on the Net, what we can do is identify what jurisdiction it comes from, identify the service provider and alert the relevant authorities."

Addressing the Board of Deputies of British Jews on Monday evening, Mr Straw also said that ministers were monitoring the problem of "Holocaust denial". The Government was reluctant to ban it, he said; there was a need to balance guarding against offence, such as that caused by claims that the Nazi Holocaust did not happen, with free speech. There was a danger that "by introducing legislation, we would play into the hands of those who peddle these lies by giving them a public platform".

Student barristers to give free advice

By OUR LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

STUDENT barristers are to give members of the public free walk-in legal advice. The clinic will be opened in the autumn by Peter Goldsmith, QC, a former chairman of the Bar.

The idea has been promoted by the College of Law, which runs training courses for the Bar and the Law Society, and also of the Bar Pro Bono Unit, where qualified barristers take on small cases for nothing.

The clinic will open initially for one evening a week at the college's premises in Chancery Lane, the heart of London's legal quarter. Students will give people advice on small claims such as those involving personal injury, landlord and tenant disputes, small debtors and disagreements between neighbours.

Suzanne Fine, head of the College of Law's Bar vocational course, said: "The idea is to inculcate in Bar students the importance of giving freely of their time and services."

Students will work under the supervision of Adele Cox, a law lecturer who teaches on the Bar vocational course and who has also experience of running a law centre.

A do-it-yourself course for people who want to conduct their cases in the small claims and county courts is to be started this month by the National Council for Access to the Law. If successful, the Bristol Law Society scheme may be developed nationwide.

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'Driver fatigue' prompts call for car tachograph

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

COMPANY car drivers should have their hours at the wheel limited, road safety campaigners said yesterday after the publication of evidence underlining the scale of "driver fatigue".

A new survey shows that one in seven drivers admits to have fallen asleep at the wheel more than ten times in the last year. The research coincides with evidence that up to 900 road deaths a year — one quarter of the total — are a result of motorists falling asleep while driving. The figures are now accepted by government officials as being higher than those caused by drink-driving, which stood at 580 last year.

Road safety campaigners and a leading researcher into the problems of driver fatigue called yesterday on companies to develop tighter controls, including the introduction of tachographs, the devices that are fitted to coaches and lorries to monitor drivers' hours.

Growing evidence of the death toll caused by drowsiness has also prompted the Government to begin its first detailed examination of dashboard warning systems intended to keep drivers awake. It was announced yesterday that studies are to be carried out into some of the leading

systems. These include those that monitor a driver's frequency of blinking and others that sound an alarm if a driver slumps forward in his seat.

Research carried out by Brake, a road safety campaigning organisation, and Essex Police, suggests that two thirds of drivers admit to falling asleep and 15 per cent have done so more than 10 times. The proportion of those dozing off rises among motorists driving for work purposes to 72 per cent and to 82 per cent among lorry drivers.

A conference on driver fatigue was held yesterday that companies are increasingly likely to be prosecuted, possibly for manslaughter, if they have failed to take adequate precautions to protect their staff while at work, which includes driving for business.

Although most prosecutions are made under legislation covering the use of tachographs in lorries and coaches, Mary Williams, executive director of Brake, said: "Health and Safety laws can be used against any employer who fails to protect his staff. Tachographs are now commonplace and employers could certainly use them to protect themselves against prosecution."

There are some 2.2 million company cars in Britain, com-

pared to 400,000 heavy goods vehicles. Manufacturers estimate that tachographs could be fitted to cars for as little as £100.

Lorry drivers are limited to driving 56 hours a week in six days, or four-and-a-half hours at a stretch, but loopholes in the law allow some drivers to stay at the wheel for up to seven hours without a break. The conference was also told that falsified records are common in the haulage industry.

Professor Jim Horne, of the Sleep Research Laboratory at Loughborough University, told yesterday's Wake Up To Fatigue Conference: "More and more people are using their cars as offices and driving huge distances because of the pressure of work." However, he was wary of in-car monitor devices, which he said could encourage drivers to take further risks.

Hospital defends job for Parry

THE hospital that has given a job to Deborah Parry, the nurse accused in Saudi Arabia of murdering a colleague, defended its action yesterday after complaints to the nursing regulatory body.

Holy Cross Hospital at Haslemere, Surrey, said that she had previously worked there from June 1982 to March 1983 and proved to be "capable and caring". Christopher Hinton, the hospital administrator, said: "She made many friends among the staff and this friendship helped to sustain her during the difficult months spent in Saudi Arabia."

Before offering her the post as a registered nurse, which began on September 14, the hospital had double-checked her application with the United Kingdom Central Council for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting to ensure that she was still registered to practise in Britain, he said.

Ms Parry, 40, who lives with her sister in Alton, Hampshire, is said to be



Deborah Parry yesterday, leaving the Surrey hospital that described her as "capable and caring"

"delighted" by the opportunity to continue her career.

The Central Council said yesterday that it is investigating her case "as a matter of urgency" after receiving three complaints about her in the most brutal of circumstances should be nursing again," he said. "I wouldn't like any of my relatives treated to her tender loving

care." Ms Parry and Lucille McLaughlan, 32, were freed in an act of mercy by King Fahd of Saudi Arabia after being held for the murder of Miss Gilford, 55, in Dhahran hospital in December 1996. They deny the killing and say that confessions were forced out of them.

The Central Council said that it could not proceed with its investigation because the Saudi authorities would not provide evidence of a murder conviction or evidence to back up the charge as required by the council's disciplinary system. It was taking legal advice on how to proceed and was anxious to hold an impartial hearing.

Drink-drive man wins back licence

A BUSINESSMAN has had a drink-drive ban quashed because he did not realise he was breaking the law by driving home on farm tracks while over the alcohol limit.

Cyril Stammers, 56, thought he was allowed to drive his Range Rover back from the local public house by avoiding public roads and going on bridleways and footpaths. But police lying in wait, who breathalysed him half-way through his three-mile cross-country journey home from The Plough at Sutton, near Woodbridge, Suffolk, found he was slightly over the limit.

Stammers, managing director of a gardening and landscaping firm, admitted drink-driving at Deben magistrates court on August 28. He was banned from driving for 12 months, fined £600 and ordered to pay £40 costs.

But Stammers, of Hollesley near Woodbridge, had the



Stammers: drove home along a farm track

ban lifted when he appealed against his sentence at Ipswich Crown Court on Monday. Judge John Holt agreed that his excuse about not knowing that drink-drive laws applied to footpaths was a special reason for him to keep his licence.

Stammers will still have to pay his fine and costs.

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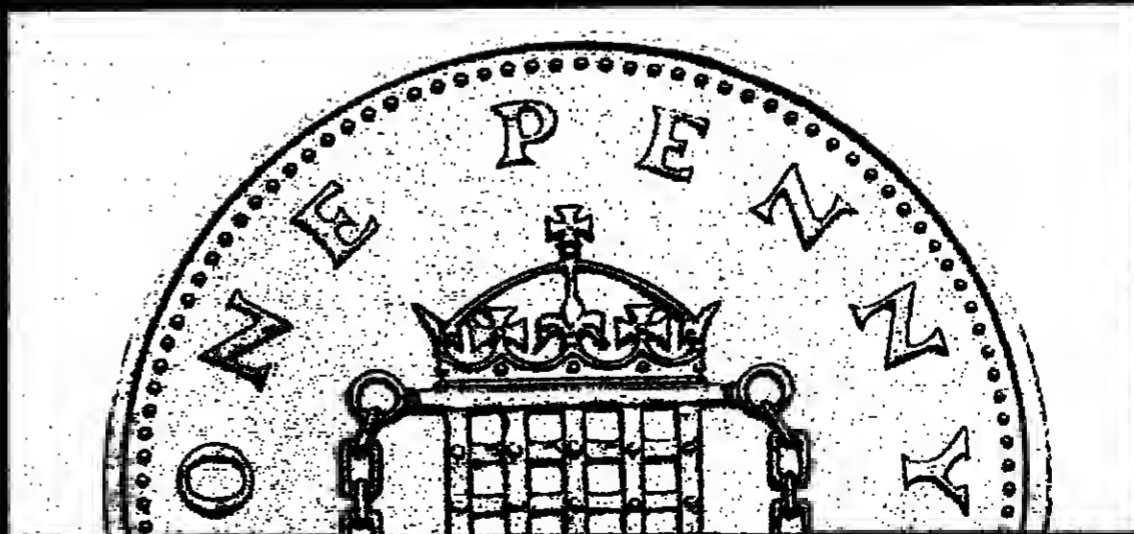
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Salvation Army puts new styles on parade

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ROBIN COOK: LOVE AFFAIRS AND LEADERSHIP BATTLES



Robin Cook and former wife, Margaret: the strain shows as the Gaynor Regan relationship becomes public. Mr Cook, the politician, with the Blairs: the other love of his life, racing, with journalist friend John McCrick: and with his new wife

Public harmony masked private anguish

TWELVE days before Robin Cook suddenly ended his marriage because of his affair with Gaynor Regan, he was telling friends what it was like to be a happily married man.

On July 30 last year Margaret Cook, who had known of her husband's relationship with Ms Regan since 1995 but hoped that it had ended, made her first visit to the Foreign Secretary's official country residence at Chevening in Kent.

Also there were their sons, Christopher and Peter, and John McCrick, the racing journalist and a close family friend, and Jenny, his wife.

Both Mrs Cook and her husband had been bracing themselves for revelations for

Robin Cook today starts a five-day trip to Brunei and Malaysia with the Queen, accompanied by his new wife Gaynor, their first official overseas visit together, Philip Webster writes. It is the second leg of an autumn treble for the race-loving Foreign Secretary, the first being a biography and the third, a book by his ex-wife



a year. Since the election in May of last year, however, the atmosphere between them had markedly improved. They talked a lot and arranged their diaries for the rest of the year to give themselves as much time as possible together on holiday, at equestrian events and on official trips such as

the handover of Hong Kong to China. The new-found harmony was shattered when Alastair Campbell, the Prime Minister's press secretary, made the now celebrated call to Mr Cook as he and Mrs Cook drove to Heathrow for a three-week holiday in America.

Claims that Mr Campbell had ordered Mr Cook to end his marriage are not borne out by Kampfner's detailed account of the events of that day. Mr Campbell told Mr Cook that the News of the World was about to run a story about the affair, adding that "for what it was worth, clarity in

news management was the only way they were going to get out of it". Mr Cook, Kampfner writes, took "clarity" to mean that he should make a choice one way or another, and told Mr Campbell that he knew he could not go on holiday with his wife while being pursued by the press. Nor could he ditch Ms Regan. He told his wife, "The holidays are off. The News of the World has got the story and I can't see how the marriage can continue."

Mr Cook's friends deny in the book that he panicked over the revelation, and say he had known for some time that he would rather be with Ms Regan. But Mrs Cook was stunned, not over the revelations which she had feared, but because she had assumed the affair was over and did not believe that he would have the time, while serving in the Government, to resume it.

The book says she held to her belief that her husband was in two minds and "wanted me to plead with him to keep me. I couldn't do that."

mainly to helping John Prescott's campaign. His team had a desk in Millbank Tower far from the action, and Mr Cook resented the over-arching central control. Once, when his bleeper sounded, he told an audience: "I've been told to call John Prescott. I must have committed Labour to a policy."

Then, in a hardly noticed interview, he said: "Anything that smacks of originality or innovative thinking is written up as 'off message'. It shows a certain lack of maturity in our political process."

The book also tells how Jonathan Powell, Tony Blair's chief of staff, told him before the election that he would not be granted his wish of making Joyce Quin, his number two in opposition, Minister for Europe. "Powell made clear Quin was not going to get the job. She had gone too native in her ten years in Strasbourg (as a Euro MP) and might not negotiate hard enough for Britain."

"Cook reluctantly accepted that, but tried to ensure an equivalent job for Quin in another department... The fact that he could not even choose his own number two confirmed Cook's own fears."

The book provides an insight into Mr Cook's unhappiness during last year's election campaign when he was allegedly marginalised by Gordon Brown and Peter Mandelson, the campaign chiefs, and claims that he was confined

to his room and told to stay there. The book says she held to her belief that her husband was in two minds and "wanted me to plead with him to keep me. I couldn't do that."

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Robin Cook and his old rival, Gordon Brown. Both coveted the job of Chancellor and Mr Cook's friends think he would have won it had he joined the Blair camp earlier

Price of 'dithering' was a place in Blair's inner circle

BY PHILIP WEBSTER

ROBIN COOK missed the chance of becoming part of Tony Blair's inner circle because of his "dithering" over whether to stand for the leadership after John Smith died in 1994.

The Foreign Secretary refused to pull out of the race until he was certain that Gordon Brown, his old rival, had also decided not to stand. Mr Cook ignored the advice of friends to "jump ship and support Tony before Gordon does" because he could not bear the thought of Mr Brown running and not him.

Friends of Mr Cook still believe that, had he joined Mr Blair's camp before Mr Brown, he might have got the job they both coveted most after the leadership - control of Labour's economic decision making.

The new biography of Mr Cook discloses that members of Mr Blair's leadership team had put out feelers to see whether he was prepared to be his number two, representing the Left of the party, on a joint ticket. The offers were turned down, however, because Mr Cook felt that he would not have freedom of expression as Deputy Leader - "loyalty without power," as he put it.

He also refused Mr Blair's request to run his campaign, the job he had done for Neil

Kinnock in 1983 and Smith in 1992. He told the future Prime Minister: "Look, I'll support you but we are in serious danger of making a caricature out of me."

The book reveals that David Blunkett, now Education and Employment Secretary, had initially urged him to stand. However, Mo Mowlam, now Northern Ireland Secretary, told him, "in her usual direct and charming fashion," that he should

have counted on the votes of about 70 MPs, more than a quarter of the parliamentary party, if he had decided early on to run. He was with some of his supporters in his Parliamentary Street office when news came that Smith, earlier reported to have had a heart attack, had died. That encounter was later portrayed by Mr Cook's enemies as a premature plot to go for the leadership. But although the subject of Mr Cook standing was raised, there was no proper discussion. "All our thoughts were with John's family," one of those present said.

Mr Cook agreed to telephone Sunday newspaper journalists that weekend telling them he was being encouraged to stand. But the statement reached the papers as a firm decision to stand, which Mr Cook had not intended and which did not do him any good.

Mr Cook was disappointed by an interview in which Chris Smith, now the Heritage Secretary and then considered a natural ally, hinted at support for Mr Blair. Mr Smith later said: "He jumped too late. He genuinely dithered about whether to stand or not for quite some time and, with hindsight, I think if Robin had stood for deputy he might well have done extremely well."

I'll support you, but we're in serious danger of making a caricature out of me?

join her and others in helping Blair's campaign. He was reported to have concluded to Peter Hain, his close supporter and now a Welsh Office Minister, that apparently he was "not pretty enough" for the job. He finally told his supporters in a circular that "reluctantly and with a heavy heart" he had decided not to stand.

Mr Cook could probably

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Blair heralds fight against urban squalor

Alexandra Frean on the Government's plans to spend £800m on improving the worst housing estates

REGENERATING the country's most squalid, deprived and run-down housing estates could take 20 years, Tony Blair said yesterday. Announcing an £800 million package of reforms designed to involve local people in urban renewal projects, the Prime Minister said that bridging the gap between the poorest neighbourhoods and the rest of Britain was a priority.

No civilised society should tolerate a social division which deprives millions of children of hope and opportunity. The poverty and fear in some communities "shames us as a nation", he said.

The bleak picture was painted in *Bringing Britain Together: a National Strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal*. The Social Exclusion Unit report identifies 4,000 estates and 44 districts suffering from the high concentrations of deprivation.

While the poorest people are concentrated in small areas, some of the most deprived neighbourhoods lie only a mile or two from prosperous city centres where employers find it hard to fill vacancies.

Mr Blair launched the report at the Holly Street Estate in Hackney, near his former home of Islington. Although a £97 million regeneration project has helped to replace

the estate's crumbling tower blocks with two-storey housing, open walkways and community facilities, the Prime Minister said that was not the solution. The key was fostering partnerships between local people and the providers of housing and other services.

John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, said that £12 million would be available this year to kick off the £800 million programme, known as the New Deal for Communities. The transformation will begin with initiatives such as "neighbourhood wardens" to help

residents, and for "super-caretakers" on estates to carry out immediate repairs.

There should also be better financial services, possibly through the creation of local credit unions and the opening of more bank and Post Office branches. Supermarket chains are to be asked to supply corner shops with own-brand goods. Other proposals are for the provision of better arts and sports facilities, designed in consultation with the people who are to use them.

The first of the money will be spread between 17 deprived

neighbourhoods across England: in Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle upon Tyne, Middlesbrough, Nottingham, Leicester, Birmingham Sandwell in the West Midlands, Kingston upon Hull, Brighton and Hove, Bradford, Norwich and Bristol as well as Newham, Hackney, Tower Hamlets and Southwark in London. More areas will be able to bid for funding in later years.

Partnerships involving community groups, public agencies, local authorities and businesses will be invited to submit bids by December 14. Ideally, proposed schemes

would involve the long-term regeneration of 1,000 to 4,000 households. Money will be made available to successful bidders to develop their plans between January and June 1999. Funding for projects lasting up to ten years will then be available from July 1999.

Under the proposals, 18 action teams involving ten Whitehall departments and outside experts will be working in five main areas: getting people to work; getting places to work; dealing with issues like housing management and anti-social behaviour; building a future for young people; access to

services, such as banks and shops; and making the Government work better.

A key to the plan's success will be the ability of the Government to dovetail its initiatives into other, separate programmes targeted at schools, crime and health, and to make sure there is no overlap or confusion between projects put into operation under different headings.

The Child Poverty Action Group warned the Government that most of the proposals were aimed at tackling the symptoms rather than the causes of deprivation and social exclusion.

Leading article, page 17

Estate where hope walked out and gangs moved in

By RUSSELL JENKINS

SKID marks trace where joyriders have driven over pavements and derelict land to escape police; scorch marks on nearby boarded-up derelict houses reveal what happened to the cars.

Sheffield Close, Beswick, in inner-city Manchester, is a slum by day and after dark, when the car gangs take over, becomes a no-go zone where the few remaining residents retreat behind double-bolted doors.

The Beswick Two-ers, named after the charge to "take without consent", like to "rally" their stolen cars in the car park behind Beswick Evangelical Church, now boarded up, covered in graffiti, swathed in barbed wire and awaiting demolition.

Huge gaps in the wooden fences of the modern low-rise, terrace houses are evidence, say frightened residents, of previous police chases. But the gangs are only one problem in an area beset by all the inner-city ailments from joblessness to drug-related crime.

Chief among them is the inexorable nature of social deprivation. Those who can have moved from the neigh-

bourhood surrounding Sheffield Close, leaving homes sealed by metal shutters. Nobody wants to move into an area so obviously blighted.

Planners flattened the unloved blocks of flats in Ardwick and Beswick a decade ago but, in their wake, shopkeepers were forced to move out because of lack of trade.

Beswick shopping centre, in the shadow of Greymare Lane police station, once boasted a Co-op, a jeweller and a bank. Now it houses a 24-hour solicitor, a probation office, a Citizens Advice Bureau, a Kwik-Save and a branch of the social services.

It was at Beswick that the authors of the social exclusion report came to research the problems of abandonment and antisocial behaviour.

Manchester City Council is pinpointing pockets of intense deprivation in east Manchester, including Beswick, Openshaw and Clayton, for urban regeneration initiatives costing between £20 million and £50 million under the New Deal for Communities programme, announced by the Government yesterday. In the



Boarded-up houses at Beswick, Manchester. A resident says concrete panels in the estate's homes are rotting away and sinking into the mud

short-term, this is likely to mean demolition for unlettable and decaying housing stock and improvements for what remains rather than wholesale rebuilding.

More importantly, say the council, is the partnership to be forged with residents on projects to lift the blight, whether attracting jobs, protecting homes and businesses,

improving health or generally encouraging life back into the urban centres.

Sean McGonigle, principal strategy officer for Manchester Housing, said: "The answer is to provide a holistic approach to tackle the problems of the area. We have to look at the whole range of issues to improve the health of the area." They have a tough

job. Beswick has been blighted since heavy industries closed or moved out long ago. Manchester City Council is hopeful that the £100 million project to build a stadium for the Commonwealth Games and sports village, on the Eastlands site, less than a quarter of a mile away, will be a powerful engine for change.

Mr McGonigle insisted

that many parts of east Manchester host thriving communities. But some estates have a 100 per cent turnover in tenants each year and that is unsustainable, he says.

Manchester has a good track record. The city council has brought new life to North Hulme and Moss Side, once the epicentre of "Gunchester".

It has overseen the renaissance of the Castlefield area, with well-appointed flats and restaurants for the middle class.

Julie Monash, 41, a Beswick resident, said: "The houses should be pulled down because there are always problems. The concrete panels are rotting away and sinking into the mud."

LIFE ON THE FRONT LINE

COMMENTS made to researchers from the Social Exclusion Unit as they visited poor areas show what life is like on the estates:

"Sometimes I feel sorry for [kids] when I see one of them carrying his Mum home from the pub. His Dad's still in the pub. You see a little boy of 4 out at 4pm shouting by himself."

"There are needles and rubbish and joints everywhere. There are kids smoking and drinking, running on the roof. They say there are £100 rats under our flats."

"People are frightened to help each other or get involved for fear of reprisals. I want to be invisible because that feels safer than challenging people."

"Seven and eight-year-olds, sleeping out all night with cans of lager is common. They light a fire under the bridge and sniff gas. There is loads of glue-sniffing round here. The police just haven't got time for people like us."

"Everyone who was in my class has habits. I'm the only one who hasn't. I feel very left out. Only one is in a stable relationship and none are married."

"More than anything we need to make our schools as good as yours."

"I can't invite people to my house because if they leave at 10pm, I might not see them again."

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Lottery will pay for entrance to top public school

AN EXTENSIVE renovation programme at Stowe School was boosted yesterday by one of the largest grants ever made to an historic house.

The £4.9 million from the Heritage Lottery fund will go to a newly formed Stowe House Preservation Trust charged with carrying out a £25 million restoration programme. The scheme will greatly increase public access to both the house and landscape gardens, which the Government is seeking to have designated as a World Heritage Site.

Work will concentrate on Stowe's magnificent 200-yard north front, which 18th century owners steadily enlarged with the help of Vanburgh, Kent and Leoni. Stowe House was completed in about 1770 and became a school in 1923, since when more buildings have been added.

Peter Inskip, the architect in charge, said: "The condition is terrible. It's not only a problem with the local Helmsdon limestone, which turns to clay, but with cement render applied in the 1920s, which has caused actual structural failure because it behaves differently from the brick cores of the columns within."

Lord Temple used plaster render to conceal the many different periods of building in the north front. In a letter to

A £4.9m grant will help to restore Stowe's palatial front, writes Marcus Binney

Lady Chatham in 1771, he wrote: "My stucco columns gave immortal fame superior to my stone and yet I am fool enough to give way to prejudice and use stone most liberally on the south side." By re-using lime renders similar to those used by Lord Temple, Mr Inskip hopes to restore Stowe's palatial entrance front and colonnades, now a dingy grey, to their original sparkling white.

He said: "Great historic houses have to be re-roofed about every 100 years and Stowe's was last done in 1860. Our philosophy will be to do all that is necessary — but as little as possible."

In recent years, the National Trust has taken over Stowe's landscape gardens and restored many of its famous temples. Now the house is also

to be open 100 days a year and will form the main approach to the gardens. Visitors will enter through the great hall and the spectacular domed saloon to enjoy the panorama from the great south portico across the lake to the magnificent triumphal arch set on the skyline nearly a mile away.

The school will pay a market rent to the new trust for the space it occupies. The trust's Rupert Lütherland says: "School meal times will be adjusted to allow visitors to see the dining room and other state rooms now used for recitals and debates."

Stowe's headmaster will move out of the handsome Gothic library designed by Sir John Soane to make way for visitors. A little-used porte cochere, or carriage entrance, introduced under the steps of the entrance portico, will serve again as a winter entrance opening into the Egyptian hall and providing access for the disabled.

The contents of Stowe were finally dispersed in one of the greatest country house sales, with 3,955 lots over 19 days in 1921. Acquisition by the school saved the house from the prospect of ruin or even demolition.

The lottery grant brings new hope for a series of other great houses that are outstanding architecturally but



The crumbling columns at Stowe School. The lottery money will go towards restoration and increasing public access to the house and grounds

have lost their contents or become institutions or simply been left empty. These include Pugin's Scarisbrick in Lancashire, Wentworth Woodhouse in Yorkshire, Kinmel in North Wales and Taymouth Castle in Scotland.

The lottery fund has also given a further £1 million to the National Trust for the restoration of two monuments in the park at Stowe. These are the obelisk by Sir John Vanburgh — used as target practice by troops in Second World War — and the Gothic umbrella. The park will be open 365 days a year free of charge.

Lutyens' sketches to be displayed

By MARK HENDERSON

THE papers and sketchbooks of the architect Sir Edward Lutyens are to be acquired for the nation with a £242,900 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The money, awarded yesterday, will enable the Royal Institute of British Architects to buy thousands of letters and sketches, all of which will be put on public display.

The fund handed out more than £37 million to 128

projects across Britain. The largest award, £9.9 million, went to the Horniman Museum of ethnography, natural history and musical instruments in Lewisham, South London, to improve its galleries, demolish unsightly modern buildings at the site, and build a new extension. There will be more exhibition space, better public facilities and a conservation studio.

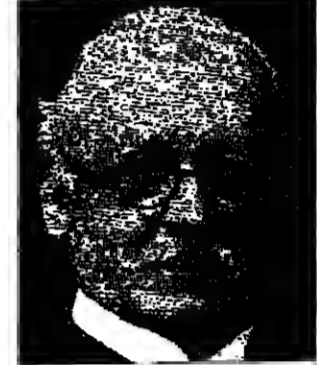
The Royal Welch Fusiliers Museum in Caernarfon, North Wales, will receive £1.1 million to develop the permanent exhibit in the World Heritage Site at Caernarfon Castle into a full museum housed in the Queen's Tower and Chamberlain Tower.

St Mary's Cathedral in Edinburgh, which was designed

by Sir George Gilbert Scott, a contemporary of Lutyens, will receive £586,000. The money will be used for a three-year programme of conservation and restoration work.

A five-year restoration programme for 41 nature reserves in Worcestershire has also benefited in the latest round of grants, with £884,750 being awarded to the Worcestershire Wildlife Trust.

Churches and places of worship share £7.9 million among 60 projects, with the largest grant of £2 million going to the Whiby centre.



Lutyens' papers are saved for the nation

includes some important major awards, together with many smaller ones. The combined effect is designed to spread the benefits of our funding all over the UK."

£5m will help restore abbey's lost garden

By PAUL WILKINSON

GRANTS of £5 million were awarded yesterday for restoration and research at Whiby Abbey, one of the most spectacular historic sites in the country.

Already preliminary work on the construction of a visitor centre for the 120,000 people a year who come to the cliff-top ruins perched between the North Sea and the North York Moors has unearthed a lost treasure. Buried beneath an acre of paddock archaeologists have found a 17th-century stone garden, created by the descendants of the Cholmley family who bought the abbey after Henry VIII's dissolution of the monasteries.

"Given the blasted location of the site, facing north, several hundred feet above sea-level, little would probably grow in a garden up here," Ed Bell, a projects manager with English Heritage, said. "We know of nothing else like this."

The garden is a vast paving of large cobbles, probably taken from the nearby beach, and laid out in geometric

patterns across an inner and outer courtyard which fronted a magnificent two-storey classical style house built by the Cholmleys in 1672.

In the centre of the inner court was a large feature, possibly a fountain or statue and spaced around it are holes, possibly the base of statues or small beds for seasonal plantings. "They could possibly have brought out trees or plants in containers and spaced them around the courtyard as they wished," Mr Bell said.

"The original plans show two formal areas, but give no clues as to what was here. We had no idea until late last year when we put in an exploratory trench and kept on finding cobbles."

The stone garden will now be restored and form a feature of the visitor centre, which is being created inside the roofless shell of the old house with the aid of the grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund, the European Regional Development Fund and Scarborough

Borough Council. Present-day visitors hardly cast a glance at the house, which lies behind high stone walls and is sandwiched between St Mary's churchyard, made famous by Bram Stoker as a stalling-ground for Dracula, and the medieval ruins of the abbey founded by St Hilda in 657.

The house was built as a grand extension to the family home, Abbey House, which had originally been the abbot's lodgings. But in the Great Wind of 1790, its timber roof was dislodged. The wing was subsequently abandoned and in the 1920s, when the family moved out and the house was turned into a hotel, it was handed over with the abbey to the Government.

The grants will be used to re-roof the building and construct display areas, a shop and other attractions. They are scheduled to open in 2000. The money will also be used to research areas now used as car parking in an attempt to find out more about the abbey's Anglo-Saxon origins.



Work begins on restoring the 17th-century stone garden discovered at Whiby Abbey

Railtrack heaps up trouble

By HELEN JOHNSTONE

PROTESTERS are hoping that John Prescott will intervene to curb plans by Railtrack to pile up ballast stockpiles the height of houses around the country.

A public outcry in Oxford, where Railtrack plans to build one of 13 such stockpiles, could halt the scheme, which is part of a £1-billion investment in infrastructure. Railtrack does not require planning permission under a 1995 planning order.

However, Oxfordshire planners meet on Friday to

decide whether to issue an Article Four direction preventing Railtrack from storing 200,000 tonnes of ballast for track maintenance on green belt land near houses.

Such a direction would need the consent of the Secretary of State for Environment, Transport and the Regions. It would force Railtrack to apply for planning permission in the normal way but it could also result in the council having to compensate the company.

More than 100 people have written to Oxfordshire County Council to protest about the proposed storage yard, which would contain a pile of stone 340 metres long, 15 metres wide and 4.5 metres high. About 250 people attended a public meeting called by Railtrack.

Dr Alastair Rogers, chairman of Hinkley Park Residents Association, said it was hard to see how Railtrack could have chosen a worse site. However, Railtrack says that the site offers good connections on the network.

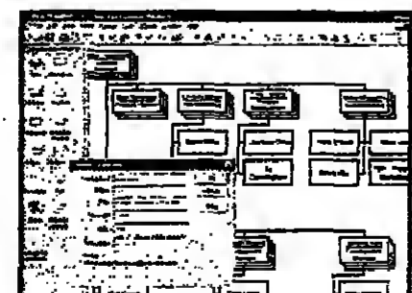
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THE TIMES WEDNESDAY

Demo leader calls for straight talking

FROM LYN BIRCH

TAPE DISPUTE

HILLARY has been accused of a 'tape dispute' over her resignation as President of the White House.

She is accused of 'stealing' a tape recording of a meeting with the President.

The recording was said to show her in a 'disparaging' way.

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Hillary 'K...'

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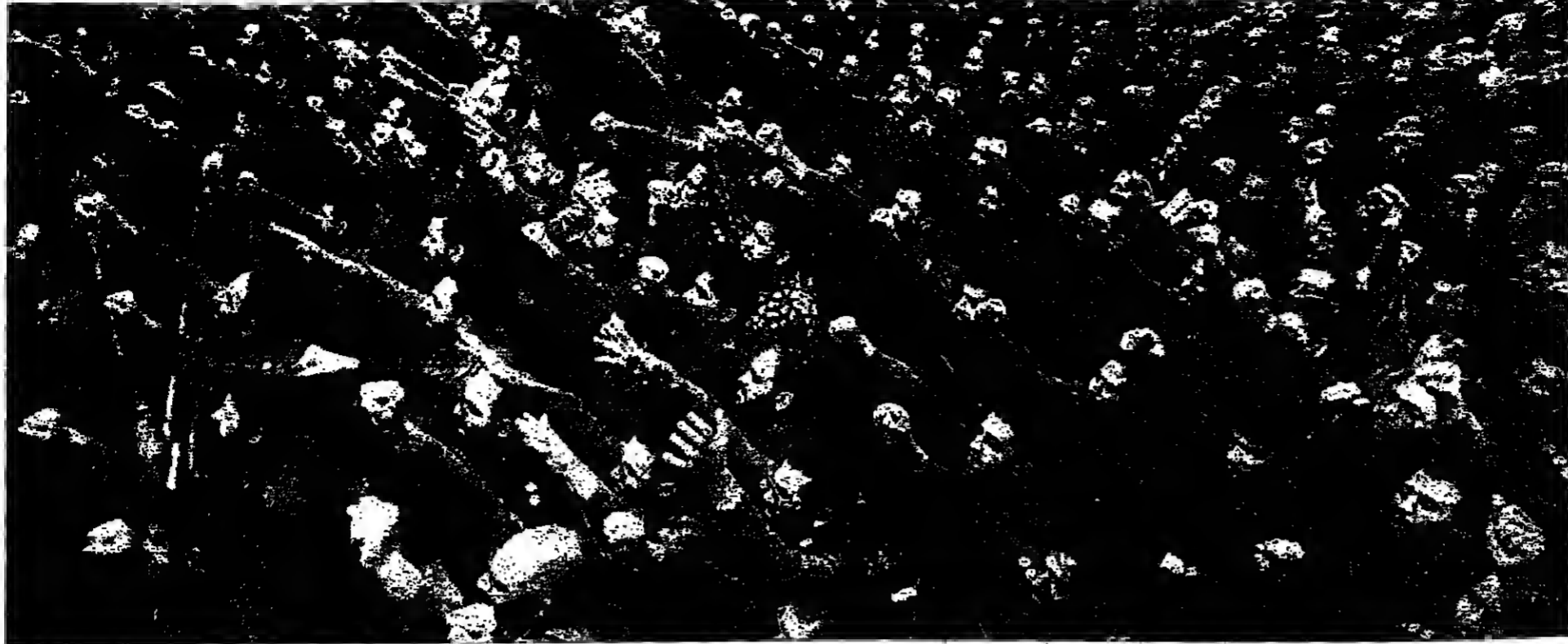
Tehran puts military on war alert



Khamenei yesterday made call to arms

Tehran vows to avenge deaths of envoys as coffins return, writes

Michael Theodoulou



Revolutionary Guards demonstrate their support as Ayatollah Khamenei orders the military to be ready to fight Taleban who have vanquished Iran's allies in Afghanistan

AYATOLLAH Khamenei, Iran's supreme leader, yesterday put the country's armed forces on alert for possible action against the Taleban movement in Afghanistan hours after the bodies of seven Iranians killed by the Taleban were flown home to an emotional reception.

Iran, which has vowed to avenge the killings, has massed nearly a quarter of a million troops along its remote border with Afghanistan, raising fears of a military confrontation between the rival Islamic states.

"We have human, Islamic, political and national concerns in Afghanistan," Ayatollah Khamenei said af-

ter meeting commanders of Iran's Revolutionary Guards. He added: "All officials and those in charge of affairs of the country, including the armed forces, must be ready for speedy, timely and decisive implementation of whatever decisions the senior political and security authorities deemed necessary and right for the country."

In Iran's most explicit threat to intervene on behalf of the Afghan opposition, the Revolutionary Guards announced that Iran was ready to help "the oppressed and meek people of Afghanistan".

But maintaining a huge force in the desert areas near Afghanistan

would prove a logistical nightmare for Iran. With memories of Iran's costly eight-year war with Iraq still fresh, most Iranians have little desire to enter another conflict whose outcome would be far from certain, analysts said.

Apart from attempting to intimidate Taleban, Tehran's tough rhetoric appeared designed to secure tougher international condemnation of the movement's actions. Iran, which has accused Pakistan of backing the Taleban, has also played on international fears that the crisis could suck in other countries.

Human rights groups have accused the Sunni Muslim Taleban of

massacring thousands of Shias when it overran the opposition stronghold of Mazar-i-Sharif last month. Iran, a predominantly Shia Muslim country, which sees itself as the champion of Shias worldwide, alleged that similar massacres took place when Taleban captured the strategic town of Bamian last weekend.

The flag-draped coffins of six Iranian diplomats and a journalist, killed during the fall of Mazar-i-Sharif, were carried by a guard of honour when they arrived back at Tehran airport. President Khatami, heading thousands of tearful mourners, said: "I assure you that we will

defend the integrity and honour of the sacred system of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the best of our ability." He was mobbed by relatives of the dead who chanted: "Death to Taleban."

Iran has demanded that Taleban extradite those who killed the Iranians in Mazar-i-Sharif and return dozens more Iranians it said were being held hostage. Taleban has instead accused the dead of being military advisers who were helping the Afghan opposition and called on Iran to apologise for interfering in Afghanistan's internal affairs.

Despite the war of words, Taleban said it would welcome talks

with Iran under United Nations auspices while Tehran has appealed to the Security Council to help defuse the crisis.

Islamabad: Taleban pushed back the Iran-supported Shia Hezb-i-Wahdat faction to capture a strategic central pass, an Afghan news service reported. Pakistan-based Afghan Islamic Press quoted a Taleban spokesman as saying Shiber Pass, linking Bamian and Farwan provinces, fell after heavy fighting, which started on Sunday, after the capture of Bamian. The Islamic militia took 350 opposition fighters as prisoners and seized hundreds of military vehicles. (Reuters)

Israel warned of new threat to peace

By Christopher Walker in Tel Aviv

MILITARY intelligence has presented the Government of Benjamin Netanyahu with a pessimistic assessment of the prospects of peace in the Middle East, warning him of a period of chronic uncertainty due to the advanced age and poor health of many Arab leaders.

The recently updated review also gives warning of the growing dangers of Iran's missile and nuclear programme, efforts by Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, to train his forces for conflict with Israel and new concerns about "negative trends" within the Egyptian Army.

There are fears that the Egyptian Army is becoming a much more potent threat because of its improved training and acquisition of Western weaponry. The review said that normalisation of the two states' relations, as laid down in the 1979 peace treaty, remained "paper thin".

The seriousness with which the review is being taken was shown on Sunday — the fifth anniversary of the 1993 Israeli-Palestinian Oslo peace accords — when the Cabinet approved a real increase in annual defence spending for the first time since 1985.

The budget not only contained an increase in the defence allocation of 400 million shekels (£67 million), but also an understanding that the defence allocation will continue to grow over the next five years. A large part of the 1999 increase will go on jet fighters and helicopters.

Israeli sources said the assessment placed greater emphasis on the ever-increasing surface-to-surface missile threat to the Jewish state from countries such as Iran, Iraq and Libya.

It also predicted that the next generation of Arab leaders might find it more difficult to maintain — or even contemplate — peace treaties with Israel than the current known quantities such as Mr Arafat, who is 70 next year, President Mubarak of Egypt, who recently turned 70, or even President Assad, the Syrian leader who ordered a halt to peace talks after Israel refused to return the Golan Heights.

UN fights to keep ties with Saddam

By Michael Theodoulou

URGENT diplomacy was under way to dissuade President Saddam Hussein of Iraq from carrying out a threat to cut all ties with United Nations weapons inspectors. Such a move will halt efforts to disarm Iraq and represent Saddam's most serious challenge to the UN's authority since the end of the 1991 Gulf War.

The state-run Iraqi press, convinced Washington will never allow sanctions to be lifted while Saddam is in power, has suggested that Iraq has little to lose by defying the UN.

Saddam's decision could become clearer tomorrow when his Cabinet discusses a recommendation by Iraq's rubber-stamp parliament to sever ties with the weapons inspectors.

He implemented an earlier parliamentary resolution last month to prevent arms experts from carrying out surprise inspections of new sites. But UNSCOM, the UN Special Commission on disarming Iraq,

was allowed to continue monitoring known weapons sites and "dual-use facilities".

Ending the monitoring process would negate much of what UNSCOM has achieved over the past seven years by leaving the UN with few means of knowing whether Saddam is rebuilding his outlawed weapons programmes. Iraq has yet to come clean on its biological and chemical weapons and there are renewed concerns about its nuclear capability.

By defying the UN, Saddam has already won a concession in the form of a possible "comprehensive review" of Iraqi compliance. But he has also suffered a setback by partially suspending UNSCOM's work. The Security Council, often divided, was united last week in issuing a tough resolution that kept sanctions in place indefinitely unless Saddam resumes full co-operation with the arms inspectors.

Deposed minister awaits arrest

By David Watts

MALAYSIA'S deposed Finance Minister believes the Government will wait until after the Queen has left at the end of the Commonwealth Games early next week before arresting him.

Anwar Ibrahim made his prediction yesterday as the Government of Dr Mahathir Mohamed detained Mr Anwar's private secretary, who had served him when he was a minister. No reasons have been given for the arrest of Mohamed Ahmad but it appears to be a means of putting pressure on Mr Anwar, who launched a reform campaign at the weekend with a speaking tour of the country.

In his speeches, he has accused the leadership of corruption, nepotism and cronyism — the very charges that were laid against former President Suharto of Indonesia before he stood down in May. Those points are intended to strike directly at Dr Mahathir, although Mr Anwar has been careful not to name the Malaysian leader directly.

Mr Anwar has already been expelled from the United Malays National Organisation and his only significant support there is from three officials in the youth wing.

Dr Mahathir claims Mr Anwar was expelled because of low morals, and sexual allegations against Mr Anwar have been circulating for months. Mr Anwar denies the allegations, which are being investigated by the police.

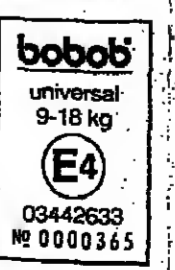
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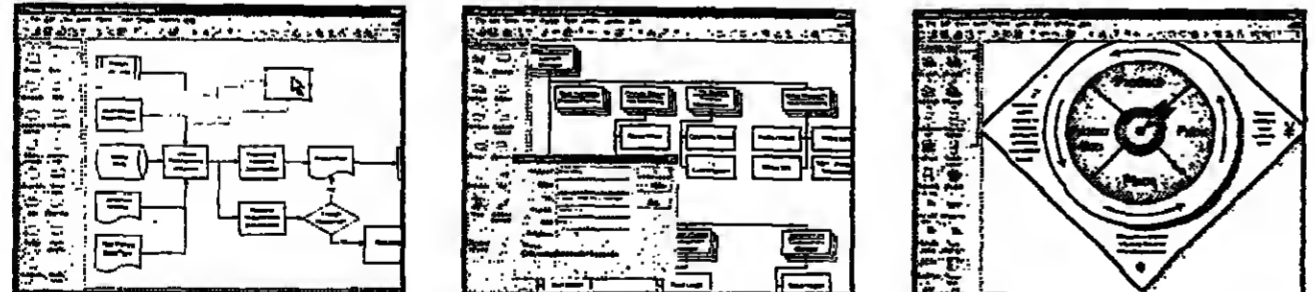
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Albania flexes muscle

...Albania... flexes muscle... the world's most powerful nations... the West... the world's most powerful nations... the West...

...Serbs vote for Bosnia extremist... the world's most powerful nations... the West... the world's most powerful nations... the West...

...Serbs vote for Bosnia extremist... the world's most powerful nations... the West... the world's most powerful nations... the West...

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...Serbs vote for Bosnia extremist... the world's most powerful nations... the West... the world's most powerful nations... the West...

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Westerners flee as Russians rediscover black sense of humour

AS RUSSIA'S new Government awaits the International Monetary Fund delegation that is likely to decide its economic fate by the end of the week, thousands of Russians have been laid off or given obligatory unpaid leave and Western bankers are fleeing the country in their droves.

Foreign exchange booths were revising their exchange rate notices by the hour yesterday as the rouble veered between 75 and 122 to the dollar and, to depress Russians further, the Agriculture Ministry has announced that the grain crop this year will be the smallest since 1957.



Removal firms are the only ones making money as the bankers abandon Moscow to its crisis, writes Anna Blundy in Moscow

One English banker, who has a seat booked on a flight out of Moscow next Monday, said the transactions he was working on simply ceased to exist and most of his colleagues were just riddling their thumbs or chasing up bad debts.

Renowned for their inscrutable black humour, Russians always fall back on it in times of crisis and some newspapers have now set up hotlines for readers to ring with their favourite anecdotes.

For the thousands of newly unemployed Russians facing a bleak winter, the only salvation is their sense of humour, dormant during the past few years of boom, but now resurfacing in newspapers and magazines as the country prepares for the worst.

Albanian rivals flex muscles in tense stand-off

FROM ANTHONY LOYD IN TIRANA

ALBANIA'S rival leaders last night challenged each other to resign, as their followers kept up an armed stand-off on the streets of Tirana.

Fatos Nano, the Socialist Prime Minister, and Sali Berisha, the deposed former Democratic President, rejected each other's ultimatum: Dr Berisha insisted that Mr Nano should stand down; Mr Nano said Dr Berisha should go into exile.

Armed men in a variety of guises and with differing aims still occupied areas of the city centre, while queues of foreign businessmen gathered outside airline offices trying to leave the country.

Yesterday's dawn revealed a cacophony of armed personnel carriers, police vans and motorcycle outriders beginning a gun-toting drive-past in figure-of-eight loops around the square, as armed men in black balaclavas, police and army uniforms, helmets, woolly hats, civilian clothing, or combinations of all these, deployed around the Interior Ministry building.

Belying this apparent show of government authority, an opposition crowd of a thousand strong gathered around the Democratic Party headquarters barely a hundred yards to the east to listen to the croaking tones of Dr Berisha.

Their hardware included two T55 tanks crewed by youths in leather jackets-rockers taking Heavy Metal a little too far with their machine-guns and pistols.

drove up the Boulevard of Martyrs. Inside were a half-faced group of men referred to by diplomats as "the boys", who arrived suddenly two days ago to protect the British Embassy.

The only object not turning in Skenderbeg square was the residual Ferris wheel. Every other player from the Balkan circus was present and performing.

Yet across the border to the north hundreds of the Albanians' ethnic brethren have been killed over the past few months by Serb forces, hundreds of thousands have been made refugees, and their plight is awakening a new consciousness in Albania.



Supporters of Sali Berisha shout anti-government slogans from a captured tank

WORLD IN BRIEF

Mafia fugitive held after dawn raid

Palermo: Italian police yesterday arrested Mariano Troia, a Mafia don (writes Francesco Bongarrot). A fugitive for six years, Signor Troia was captured in a dawn raid on his hide-out near Tommaso Natale on the outskirts of Palermo.

Reversal in TV killing case

Detroit: An appeals court overturned the murder conviction of a Michigan man who killed a gay admirer after he revealed his affections on *The Jenny Jones Show*. The state Court of Appeals said lawyers for Jonathan Schmitz were wrongly barred from removing a juror before his trial began.

Rebels repel Hutu attack

Goma: Rebel troops in the Democratic Republic of Congo repelled a raid on their stronghold of Goma on Monday, killing about 300 of the attackers. One insurgent soldier also died.

Girl killed over cup-cakes

Houston: A man has been convicted of strangling his three-year-old granddaughter because she liked icing off cup-cakes. David Douglas, 49, faces either a death sentence or life in prison after being convicted of the murder of Shelby Lynne Barrackman in January 1997.

Serbs vote for Bosnia extremist

THE Dayton peace accord appeared in jeopardy last night as early election results in Bosnia suggested that a hardline nationalist had been voted in as President of the Serb territory, or Republika Srpska (Tom Walker writes).

Blair's troops give succour to Schröder in poll battle

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

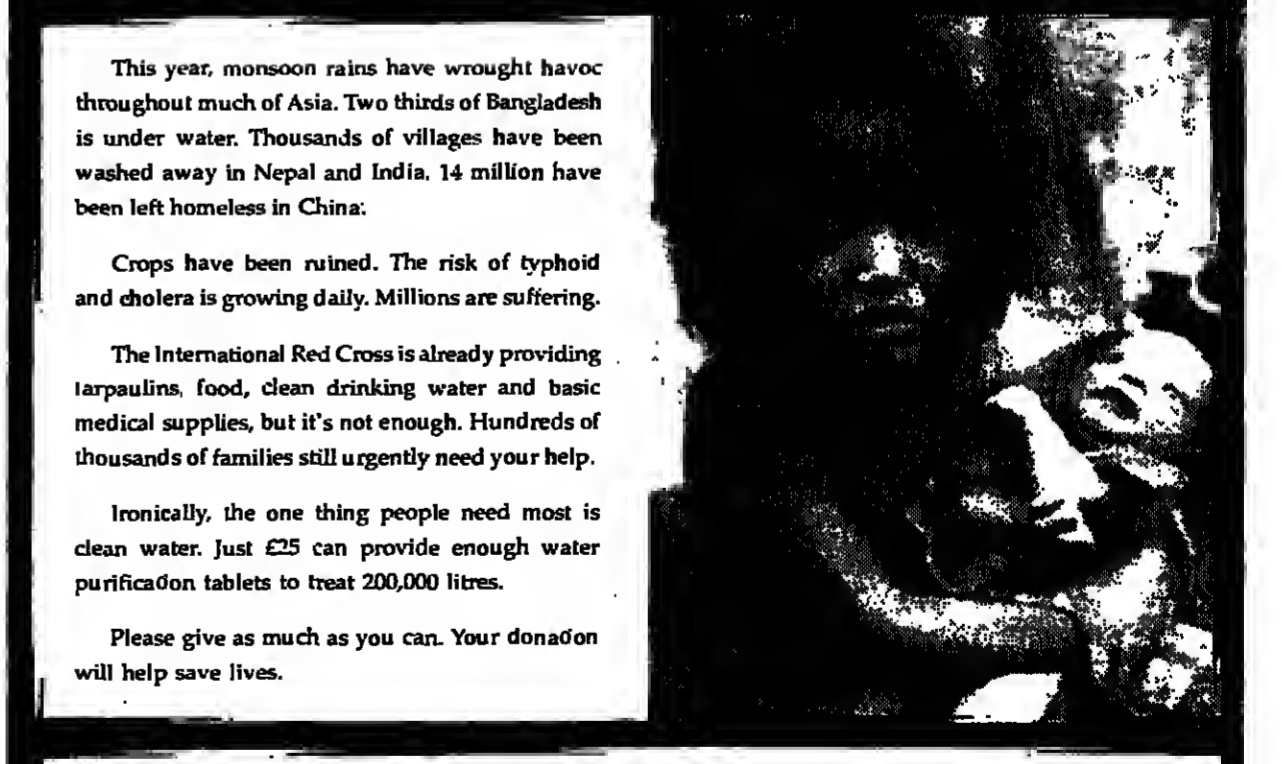
TONY BLAIR'S new Labour troops are parachuting into Germany to support Gerhard Schröder's Social Democratic campaign to oust Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor.

GERMAN ELECTIONS

Opinion polls give the Social Democrats 42 per cent of the vote and Herr Kohl's Christian Democrats 37 per cent. The Free Democrats, Herr Kohl's favourite coalition partner, are tipped to win only 4 per cent and may thus plunge out of parliament.

FLOODS DEVASTATE ASIA

This year, monsoon rains have wrought havoc throughout much of Asia. Two thirds of Bangladesh is under water. Thousands of villages have been washed away in Nepal and India. 14 million have been left homeless in China.



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'You're something, hon, but it's not pregnant'

TUESDAY: I am more than a fortnight late now, but the test is negative. There is no pink line on the second window on the test stick but I am sure I am pregnant. I haven't done it wrong, either. Over the past few years I have done enough of these things to know exactly how to use them: how to pee without splashing on the tester stick and precisely how long to wait before looking for the tell-tale sign.

Sometimes, depending on the test, they use a red tick to indicate you're pregnant and sometimes a blue cross. With this one, a positive result is indicated by two pink lines. But there is only one. The other box remains clear, white and unambiguous. I am not pregnant.

On the back of the packet it claims the "Answer" test is so sensitive that it can detect pregnancy within 24 hours of an overdue period. On the front it claims to be "America's No 1 Test", so I think perhaps it is past its sell-by date. I didn't much trust the pharmacist who sold it to me either: he looked shifty and I had to wait for ages while in front of me a tall, balding man in a brown jacket was interrogating him about Viagra. Pfizer's new wonderdrug to overcome "erecile dysfunction".



Joanna Coles
NEW YORK LIFE

"me," the man explained hastily. "It's for my friend, in Brazil. Please, he can't get it there." I wander over to Peter's writing-desk, tucked under the window in our Greenwich Village loft, and announce: "I'm not pregnant." "What do you mean?" he asks, hunched over his Powerbook, without looking up.

"I mean I've done a test and I'm not pregnant." "That's good," he says, tapping the space bar and still not looking up. "Did you think you might be?" "Well it's very odd," I say, "because I'm late and I'm never late. But the test is negative, so I can't be." There's a short pause. "Good oh," he says.

THURSDAY: I can't face the uncertainty of another home-test, so I am sitting in the offices of a gynaecologist in Murray Hill, a drab area on the fringes of midtown. I am 36 and this is the first time I have ever visited a gynaecologist.

At home in England I relied on the GP for everything, but in Manhattan everyone has a doctor for each separate part of the body. Americans recommend them to each other as a sign of trust and friendship, like hot stock market tips. My friend Kelly, who appears to be in rude health, has a gynaecologist, a podiatrist, a dermatologist, a neurologist and an orthopaedologist. She recommends her family doctor because he once allowed her to "self-prescribe" Prozac over the phone. "I self-diagnosed depression, I gave him my symptoms and he agreed with me," she tells me. "So I had a courier pick the prescription up."

I imagine how Dr O'Reilly, my doctor in Notting Hill and a laconic Irish woman whose sole driving force seemed to come from resisting local pressure to become a GP fundholder, would have reacted if I'd phoned up and "self-prescribed" Prozac.

The surgery is far smarter than anything I've encountered in Britain. With soft, black leather seating and the latest editions of *Vogue*, *Harper's Bazaar*, *National Geographic* and *Time*, the reception is more like a discreet ho-

tel lobby. The walls are a gentle green, decorated with rousing scenes of thundering waterfalls, dancing cornfields and proud, snowy peaks from Yosemite. Underneath each one is a motivational phrase: "A bend in the road is not the end of the road, unless you fail to make the turn".

"Some people dream of success. Others wake up and work hard at it."

Indeed, there is nothing to suggest I am in a doctor's waiting room at all, until I notice a plastic box of leaflets dispensing advice on genital herpes. "Genital herpes affects more than one in six American adults. Avoid it. There is NO Cure!"

"Ms Coles?" A receptionist beckons with a silver-polished nail so long it has curled round on itself like a miniature dough-hook.

"Your insurance?" I hand over the blue plastic card which, alongside my social security and credit cards, I have learnt in my 15 months of living here to carry at all times in case of emergency. A directory of forms is pushed at me requiring my entire medical history and that of my immediate family, plus another sheet demanding I take full financial responsibility should, for any reason, my insurance not pay up. I have no option

but to sign and am led into another office by a doctor wearing a name-badge claiming she is called Beth and whose impressively-framed certificates jostle for wall space with more motivational images of Yosemite.

"So, Joanna, I'm Beth. Welcome to our practice! This is your first visit?"

"Yes." "Tell me, how did you hear about us?" "My family doctor Leah Falzone recommended you." "Oh, Leah?" cries Beth. "Leah Fabone? A fabulous lady! She gives us lots of referrals and we pride ourselves on giving you, the customer, our best service. We're a 24-hour service, and before you leave today our receptionist, Betsy, will give you all the appropriate numbers. Now, what can I do you for today?"

"I think I'm pregnant," I say. "My period is 14 days late, which is unusual. I've done a test at home which was negative, but I'm fairly sure I'm pregnant anyway." She looks doubtful. "How old are you?" "Thirty-six." She takes a quick intake of breath, then shakes her head. "Thirty-six? The female body starts winding down, hon. Those shop-tests are pretty reliable. I'll give you a blood test, but I tell you what I'm gonna do,"

and she delivers a brisk monologue with enough force to launch the space shuttle.

"I'm gonna give you Provera, which will bring on your period, but don't take it until we have the results of your blood tests, okay? If it's positive, then I can recommend a very good obstetrician. If it's negative, then it's probably your system adjusting itself to being 36. I'm sorry, but that's the way the cookie crumbles, okay? Call me tomorrow and I'll give you the results."

I am ushered down the corridor into the care of Donna, the technician, who snaps on tight rubber gloves and grins. "You do look a little peaky," she observes, extracting blood with one hand and deftly unpeeling a Band Aid with the other. "I'll keep my fingers crossed for ya."

FRIDAY: At the appointed hour I try to call Beth, but am obstructed from reaching her by the surgery's tortuous telephonic maze. Just as I'm wondering whether to go and pick up the results in person, she calls me. "Joanna, it's Beth. Not good news, I'm afraid. To be honest, hon, I don't know what's going on. You're certainly *not* pregnant, but it's not pregnant. Can you do more blood tests. Can you come back?" "Is it urgent?" I ask, conscious I have an interview to write up. "How can I put this, hon? Can you come back as soon as possible, like this afternoon?"

Here, they have a doctor for every part of the body

My land of stolen childhood

Mary McAleese tells Noreen Taylor how she has become a symbol for Ireland's hopes

From within the large, formal drawing-room of the stately 17th-century house, a frisson of anticipation among the staff heralds the arrival of a tall, slim figure, expertly groomed, and fetchingly dressed in a pale blue suit.

The President, announces a protocol officer, as Mary McAleese, the eighth President of Ireland, smiles, shakes hands, and asks for water in preference to the tea and coffee laid on a silver tray.

"I'm ready when you are," she says, settling into a chintz armchair and pointing to the sheet of questions she has agreed in advance to answer in her first interview for a British paper since her inauguration last year.



Mary McAleese: "We lived a very damnish life, running in and out of one another's houses. On Saturdays, we never, ever, closed our front door"

are mature enough to recognise that we cannot change our history, particularly in the wake of the Good Friday Agreement, which was predicated on the need for us to respect the two cultures, and provide space for them."

As the first Irish President chosen from the Six Counties, as people in the Republic refer to Northern Ireland, she has had vivid personal experiences of the clash between those cultures, and the background of violence and bigotry.

Mary Lenehan, 48, was one of nine children born into the family of a publican in the Ardoyne area of North Belfast. There she witnessed at first hand the disadvantages of growing up as a Roman Catholic in an Orange supremacist state. When she was 19 her family were forced to flee.

"We had to leave because of loyalist violence directed at our home and a series of sectarian episodes directed against my brother, who was deaf. They came to our house with machineguns and there was a loyalist car-bomb attack on my father's business."

Despite that bitter memory, she says: "We have to be generous and forgiving because I don't know of any other way to a better world. I grew up in a very cruel place that took away people's childhood and skewed them. It took people's talents and kept them locked up, and it placed unnecessary obstacles in the path of progress."

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John Bayley and Iris Murdoch: "Inside marriage one ceases to be observant because observation has become so automatic, its object at once absorbing and taken for granted." Photograph by Peter Nicholls

Living in an insidious fog

In 1994 we were invited to an international gathering in Israel. Iris asked not to give a paper, saying she would rather take part in a discussion in which she would answer questions on her novels or philosophical writings. She had often done this before, and it was always a success, because while never holding the floor, she had the knack of taking seriously anything that was put forward by a questioner, and investigating its potential in a friendly and sympathetic way that was both flattering and rewarding for the audience.

This time it all went wrong. The chairman was sympathetic, but soon baffled and made uncomfortable by Iris's inability to bring out the words she wanted. Her delivery had always been thoughtful and a little hesitant, and at first I was not perturbed, sure that she would recover in a few minutes. It was hard to say how con-

Iris's remark seemed to me at the time quite normal. "Don't worry, I expect he'll be born any day now," I said, but she continued to look worried and upset. "I shan't do it, and shall never do another," she said, still in that detached tone. She had often said such things before, though not quite like that. I realised for the first time that something might be seriously wrong.

I "realised" it, but without any feeling of alarm, because I was somehow sure that everything would carry on just as usual. In a sense I was right. When the Alzheimer's patient loses touch with time, time seems to lose both its prospective and its retrospective significance. For the partner, that is. Knowing that Iris would always be the same, I felt that the tiny disturbing eccentricity I had noticed then, when we talked about "Jackson", must always have been present, and would go on undisturbed into the future. Nothing that

Part of me knew I ought to be seriously worried

Iris could do, and nothing that could happen to her, could possibly make her any different. The eeriness of Alzheimer's beginnings is also its reassurance. Part of me knew that I ought to be seriously worried about the future, but knew that neither future nor past was of any consequence.

Alzheimer's is like an insidious fog, barely noticeable until everything around has disappeared. After that it is no longer possible to believe that a world outside the fog exists. First we saw our own GP, who asked Iris who the Prime Minister was. She had no idea but said to him with a smile that it surely didn't matter. He arranged an appointment at the big hospital with a specialist in geriatrics. Brain scans followed; and after an article appeared about this famous novelist's current difficulties, the Cambridge Research Unit of the Medical Council took a special interest, giving her a number of exhaustive tests in memory and language that she underwent politely, seeming both to humour the researchers and to enjoy working with them. *Jackson's Dilemma* came out and got exceptionally good reviews. I read these reviews to Iris, a thing I had never done before because she had never before wanted to listen. Now she listened politely but without understanding.

An Alzheimer's patient is not usually conscious in any definable way of what has happened, if it were otherwise the process, however irreversible it becomes, in the end, would have developed along different lines, in a different form. Some sufferers do remain conscious of their state,

paradoxical as this seems. The torment of knowing that you cannot speak or think what you want must be intolerable, and I have met patients in whom such a torment is clearly visible. But when Iris talks to me the result seems normal to her and to me surprisingly fluent, provided I do not listen to what is being said but apprehend it in a matrimonial way, as the voice of familiarity, and thus of recognition.

Time constitutes an anxiety because its conventional shape and progression have gone, leaving only a perpetual query. There are some days when "When are we leaving?" never stops, though it is repeated without agitation. Indeed, there can seem something quite peaceful about it, as if it hardly mattered when we went, or where, and to stay at home might in any case be preferable. In Faulkner's novel *Soldier's Pay*, the blinded airman keeps saying to his friend "When are they going to let me out?" That makes one flinch: the writer has contrived unerringly to put the reader in the blind man's place. Iris's query does not in itself suggest desire for change or release into a former state of being; nor does she want to know when we are getting in the car and going out to lunch. The journey on which we are leaving may for her mean the final one, or, if that sounds too



Iris
In the third extract from his memoir of Iris Murdoch, John Bayley describes how the first changes in his wife's behaviour were almost imperceptible.

Iris was her serenely benevolent unawareness of one's daily welfare. So restful. As I work in bed early in the morning, typing on my old portable with Iris quietly asleep beside me, her presence as she now is seems as it always was, and as it always should be. I know she must once have been different but I have no true memory of a different person.

Walking up for a peaceful second or two she looks vaguely at the Olivetti lying on my knees, cushioned by one of her jerseys. Not long ago, when I asked if it disturbed her, she said she liked to hear that funny noise in the morning. She must be used to it, although a couple of years ago she would have been getting up herself at this time — 7am — and preparing to start her own day. Nowadays she lies asleep, sometimes giving a little grunt or murmur, often sleeping well past nine, when I rouse and dress her. This ability to sleep like a

cat, at all hours of the day and night, must be one of the great blessings that sometimes go with Alzheimer's, converse of the anxiety state that comes on in wakefulness and finds worried words such as "When are we leaving?"

Dressing most days is a reasonably happy and comic business. I am myself still far from sure which way round her underpants are supposed to go: we usually decide between us that it doesn't matter. Trousers are simpler: hers have a grubby white label on the inside at the back. I ought to give her a bath, or rather a wash of some sort since baths are tricky, but I tend to postpone it from day to day. For some reason it is easier to do the job in cold blood, as it were, at an idle moment later in the day. Iris never objects to this: she seems in a curious way to accept it as both quite normal and wholly exceptional, as if the two concepts had become identified for her. Perhaps that is why she seems to accept her daily state as if none other had ever existed: assuming that no one else would find her changed in any way; just as my own memory only works with her now as she is, and so, as my memory seems to assume, must always have been.

It seems normal that the old routines of washing and dressing have vanished as if they, too, had never existed. If she remembered them, which she doesn't, I can imagine her saying to herself, did one really go through every day all those unnecessary rituals? My own memory, after all, can hardly believe that I once went through all those other rituals of falling

in love and becoming agitated, ecstatic, distracted. . . . Those in the same boat have a natural desire to compare notes. A man whom I had known when we were both 18-year-olds and in the Army, wrote to me to commiserate. Aside from his job as a stockbroker, his chief interests had been girls and vintage cars. When his wife, younger than he, developed the condition, he looked after her with exemplary devotion. He liked reporting progress, or the reverse, in terms of effective notes. Once he wrote: "I used to view the female form divine in a rather different light. Now I find myself hosing it down every morning."

I do it much less often. But I giggle internally if that jest comes into my head when washing between her legs and working over the contours of Iris's "female form divine". No use trying to share this joke with Iris. But she will watch the animated cartoons on the children's TV programme with something approaching glee.

We have had television only a few months — it never occurred to us before. Now I listen for its noise from the kitchen and hope it will remain switched on. If there is silence, I know that Iris has switched it off and is sitting there without moving. Attention span does not seem to be the trouble. She turns the thing off not because she is bored with it — boredom doesn't seem with her a possible state of mind — but out of an instinct to get away, the one

that makes her say "When are we leaving?" She leaves offered and attempted occupations — all now tacitly given up — for the same reason. When are they going to let us out?

● Extracted from *Iris: A Memoir of Iris Murdoch* by John Bayley, published by Duckworth at £16.95. Times readers can buy a copy for £14.95 by calling The Times Bookshop on 0900 134459. Copyright John Bayley 1998

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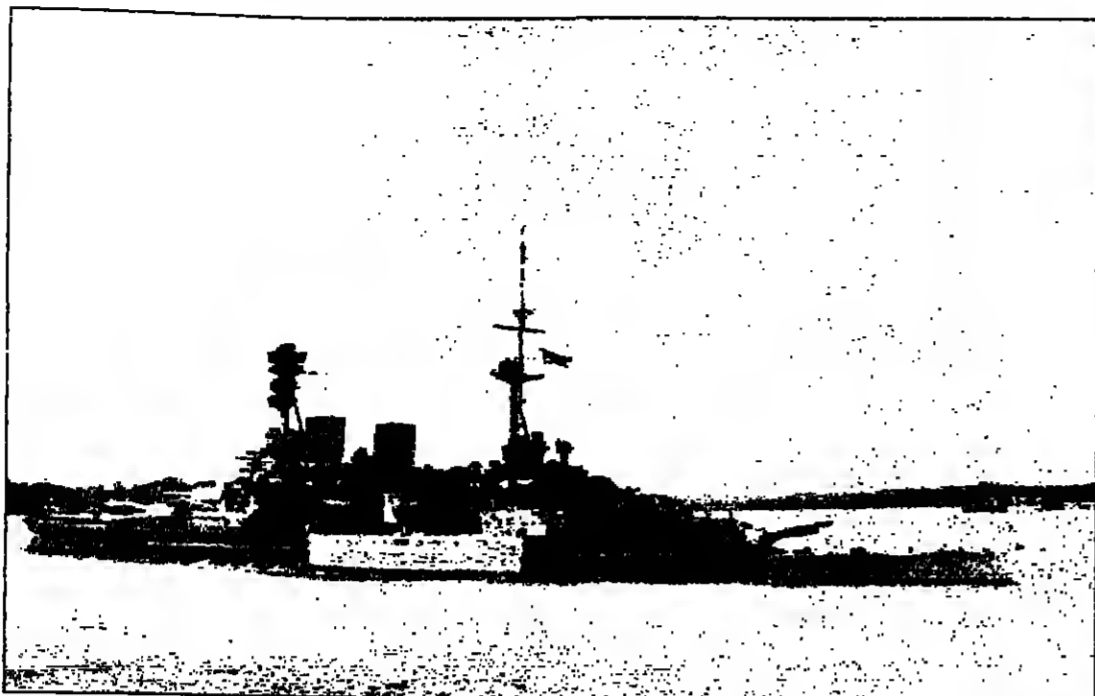
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OBITUARIES

VICE-ADMIRAL SIR JOHN HAYES



HMS Repulse leaving Johore Strait on its last voyage, December 8, 1941. Hayes, right, was aboard as signals officer, and lucky to survive her sinking



Vice-Admiral Sir John Hayes, KCB, OBE, Flag Officer Scotland and Northern Ireland, 1966-68, died on September 7 aged 85. He was born in Bermuda on May 9, 1913.

In an adventurous career aloft, John Hayes was at the heart of two melancholy episodes endured by the Royal Navy during the Second World War. As signals officer of HMS Repulse, he was among the survivors of the sinking of the battleship and the battleship Prince of Wales...

age of 17, Hayes passed an inconspicuous four years in an environment which, with its all-double discipline, cold baths and compulsory sport, outsparted Sparta. A love of music that was to last a lifetime seemed slightly eccentric...

A serious strain-induced deterioration in his eyesight sent him ashore in early 1940, but the Admiralty later relented and, fatefully, Hayes found himself aboard the battleship-cruiser Repulse.

After the war Hayes was promoted to command of all Western Fleet ships at sea in 1964. His final post was Flag Officer Scotland and Northern Ireland, from which he retired in 1968. He was Lord-Lieutenant of Ross and Cromarty, Shye and Lochalsh, 1977-88.

Hayes's war ended in the Mediterranean on the staff of the C-in-C based in Malta, with a satisfying involvement in the liberation of Greece and his rescue from communism. After the war Hayes was promoted to command of the frigates on the South Africa station.

FRANK HAYNES



Haynes until 1992 the loudest voice in Parliament

Frank Haynes, Labour MP for Ashfield, 1979-92, died on September 11 aged 72. He was born on March 4, 1926.

FRANK HAYNES was a Cockney coalminer, an unusual combination, but even more unusual was his relationship with Margaret Thatcher. When Lady Thatcher was Conservative Prime Minister he was known as her favourite Labour MP.

David Francis Haynes was brought up in poverty. His father was often unemployed and Haynes remembered newspapers serving as tablecloths and shoes lined with cardboard so that he could go to school.

At 18, with the war coming to an end, Haynes was conscripted and hoped to join the Forces. Instead, he became a Bevin Boy, directed to work in the Nottinghamshire coal-mines.

He waited to leave the pits, he stayed on. The National Union of Mineworkers became his home. He was a member for 40 years, a branch official for more than 20. Clipstone Colliery, where he went as a Bevin boy in 1944, remained his workplace until 1979.

for the rest of his parliamentary career. He decided not to seek re-election in 1992. His relationship with Margaret Thatcher started when he occupied a prominent position during Prime Minister's Questions over a period of ten weeks.

MAJOR PETER PHILLIPS



Phillips after his court appearance in Malmesbury, 1990

Major Peter Phillips, MC, father of Captain Mark Phillips and former father-in-law of the Princess Royal, died on September 12 aged 78. He was born on July 26, 1920.

THE LIVES of Major Peter Phillips and his wife would almost certainly never have entered the public domain had it not been for the connection with the Royal Family which came about through the 1973 marriage of their son, Mark, to Princess Anne.

dier John Gerhard Edward Tizack, who was subsequently ADC to King George VI from 1947 to 1950. Colonel of the 1st King's Dragoon Guards, and Master of Foxhounds; he was later killed while hunting.

what had been suspected for some time was officially announced, namely that Captain Phillips and the Princess Royal had agreed to a legal separation. Peter Phillips again found himself briefly in the limelight. Beyond expressing "great sadness", he refused to be drawn.

ROBIN DILKS



Robin Dilks, radio journalist, died of a heart attack on August 12 aged 48. He was born on October 19, 1949.

A MAN of great integrity and independence of spirit, Robin Dilks made his reputation as United Nations correspondent for the World Service of the BBC in the mid-1980s.

In the first post he demonstrated that the UN in New York could be a source of fascinating stories — and he brought them to listeners with verve and energy.

undying loyalty to Manchester City — one that endured even when times were lean for the club (which they frequently were). From there he went to Oxford, after which he joined the BBC as a news trainee in 1973.

haps even more considerable one — was to make them not only interesting, but occasionally highly intriguing. A completely individualistic character himself, he could bring unusual slants to stories which might, in other hands, have become simply descriptions of the workings of bureaucracy.

PERSONAL COLUMN

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ANNOUNCEMENTS: Spoil yourself: THE INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF FINE WINE & FOOD

LEGAL NOTICES: THE PROBATE ACT 1986: THE PROBATE ACT 1986

THE GREAT ST. LEGER: Even Doncaster feels the change that has come over the racing world...

ON THIS DAY: September 16, 1869: For all the talk of a match (between two) the odds-on favourite was unplaced...

ON THIS DAY: September 16, 1869: For all the talk of a match (between two) the odds-on favourite was unplaced...

ON THIS DAY: September 16, 1869: For all the talk of a match (between two) the odds-on favourite was unplaced...

NEWS

Unions given warning on economy

Tony Blair lined up with the Bank of England Governor to deliver a double warning to the unions that economic policy would stay unchanged and interest rates could not yet be cut.

Aitken in court on perjury charges

Jonathan Aitken, the former Tory Cabinet minister, appeared in court to face charges of perjury and perverting the course of justice.

Viagra ruling

The maker of the impotence drug Viagra ruled out reducing the price to make it more affordable to the NHS.

Militants investigated

The militant black group that demonstrated at the Stephen Lawrence inquiry is to be investigated for running an illegal school in London.

Magazine's turmoil

Financial turmoil has forced the US publishers of Reader's Digest to sell its \$100 million art collection that includes works by Monet and Van Gogh.

Head hunt

A flake of dandruff will soon be enough for scientists to build up a criminal's photofit, police commanders were told.

Missing children

Police are searching for a childless couple who disappeared with their two foster children after being summoned to a meeting with social workers.

Legal separation

The legal profession split ranks over plans by the Lord Chancellor to sweep away their restrictive practices.

Wake-up call

Company car drivers should leave their hours at the wheel limited, Road Safety campaigners said after evidence on the scale of "driver fatigue".

Bootleggers' bubble is burst

French police have dismantled the "Bubbly Connection", a huge illegal trade in bootleg champagne that has allegedly flourished in northern France for more than a decade.

End of the marriage

Twelve days before Robin Cook suddenly ended his marriage because of his affair with Gaynor Regan, he was telling friends what it was like to be a happily married man.

Housing reforms

Regenerating the most squalid and deprived housing estates could take 20 years, Tony Blair said, unveiling an £800 million package of reforms.

Historic grant

An extensive renovation programme at Stowe School was boosted by one of the largest grants ever made to an historic house.

Clinton video

Videotape of President Clinton's grand jury testimony could soon be made public over the objections of his fellow Democrats.

Iran on armed alert

Ayatollah Khamenei, Iran's supreme leader, put the country's armed forces on alert for possible action against the Taliban movement in Afghanistan.

Rouble veers wildly

Foreign exchange booths were revising their exchange-rate notices by the hour as the rouble veered between 7.5 and 12.2 to the dollar.



Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia pins the order of King Abdul Aziz on to Tony Blair at the start of their talks yesterday

BUSINESS

Microsoft: The US software giant's value on the stock market soared to \$262 billion, making it the largest company in the world, overtaking GE in the process.

Blair challenge: Trade union leaders urged Tony Blair, the Prime Minister, and his wife Cherie to have a go at living on the proposed minimum wage of £3.60 an hour.

KPMG: The accountant's "Chinese Walls" that aim to protect the confidentiality of their clients do not work, a High Court judge said.

LucasVarity: British shareholders are angry at the engineering group's plans to turn itself into an American company.

SPORT

Football: Manchester United open their campaign against Barcelona in the European Champions' League.

Criquet: Wasim Akram, the Pakistani all-rounder, has withdrawn from international competition while he strives to prove his innocence against allegations of match-fixing.

Commonwealth Games: Australia's swimmers dominated their events in Kuala Lumpur, winning 11 out of 13 medals.

Rugby union: Wales are making an ambitious attempt to persuade two high-profile rugby league players, Iestyn Harris of Leeds and Andrew Sullivan of St Helens, to switch codes ahead of next year's World Cup.

ARTS

Great shorts: Next week Birmingham is launching ArtsFest, a trailblazing exercise in arts marketing that offers 200 free previews of arts events.

New noises: In his new Alarms and Excursions at the Gielgud Theatre, Michael Frayn has written eight short plays containing some of his funniest work.

Broadway baby: Equally at home belting out the songs of Jerry Herman, Stephen Sondheim and Andrew Lloyd Webber, Bernadette Peters brings her brand of glamour to the Festival Hall.

On song: Inspired by the poems of Derek Jarman, young composer Donna McKeivitt has created a song cycle that is now released on CD.

FEATURES

Joanna Coles: In the first of her weekly columns on New York life, Joanna Coles is struck by the differences between Manhattan and her old home in Notting Hill when it comes to personal medical treatment.

Irish optimism: "We have to be generous and forgiving... I don't know any other way to a better world," Mary McAleese, the eighth President of Ireland, talks to Norman Taylor.

Iris Murdoch: "Part of me knows that I ought to be seriously worried." In the third extract from his memoir of Iris Murdoch, John Bayley describes how his wife seemed to disappear inside an "insidious fog".

People & Property: Are house prices rising or falling? A 12-page pullout reports on the housing market.



Derek Jacobi stars in Love is the Devil, a story of Francis Bacon, one of the century's great artists

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

FILMS: Derek Jacobi stars in Love is the Devil, a story of Francis Bacon, one of the century's great artists

BOOKS: Jonathan Meades assesses the Sixties; Roy Porter reviews John Bayley's Iris

THE PAPERS

The world has watched with fascination, amusement and dismay as the United States digests the report by the independent counsel, in the end, opinion will determine the President's fate, as it should.

TV LISTINGS

Preview: A true-blue Tory spends a week with New Age travellers. Living With the Enemy (BBC2, 9pm). Review: Joe Joseph on a sharp portrait of a marriage in crisis. Pages 38, 39

OPINION

Labour's tablets

Viagra should stimulate a long-overdue debate on how the NHS is funded and the priorities given to the services it offers. Politicians might find this debate uncomfortable. But as the NHS is a creation of the State, it is a political responsibility to control it.

Sink cities

Encouraging officials to deal effectively with other departments may be as hard as discouraging teenagers from spraying graffiti on every newly built wall.

Taste now, pay later

Birmingham's experiment in letting the public spend freely through the arts could introduce a new audience to the delights of theatre, opera, ballet and classical music.

COLUMNS

SIMON JENKINS

The independence of a central bank is a fiction. What government gives, government can take away. The Bank of England is a statutory body, like the Child Support Agency.

BRONWEN MADDOX

Bill Clinton should resign. It is inconceivable that he will; therefore he will survive.

ALAN COREN

A full week has now passed, but still, every night, the same nightmare recurs. You cannot possibly know how bad this nightmare is... This nightmare is real end-to-end stuff.

OBITUARIES

Vice-Admiral Sir John Hayes, Flag Officer Scotland and Northern Ireland, 1966-68; Frank Haynes, the Labour MP for Ashfield from 1979-92; Major Peter Phillips, father of Captain Mark Phillips; Robin Dilks, radio journalist.

LETTERS

Labour and interest rates: Hague's ballot; News at Ten; transport policy; bracken menace; risk assessment; legal language.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,898

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-28.

- ACROSS: 1 Private in this glasshouse? No way! (8,4). 9 North American is a long time on Jimbo (5). 10 President and first lady left in resting-place (9). 11 Out for walk, coming upon black bird (9). 12 Extremely unusual gift-wrapped plant (5). 13 A group of men one had be-headed (6). 15 Tornado, say, to make twisted path (8). 18 Be proud to maintain opposition (5,3). 19 They're sometimes obtuse, these old people (6). 22 Prepared to be hurt when husband disappears at the front (5). 24 Measure of frequency 200, with nothing likely to change (9).

Down clues for crossword puzzle.

AA INFORMATION

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AA Car reports by fax. Fax and used car reports from the AA 0330 416 390.

FORECAST

General: northern England windy with sunny spells and passing showers. Rest of England and Wales will have sunny spells and the odd shower, mainly towards western coasts.

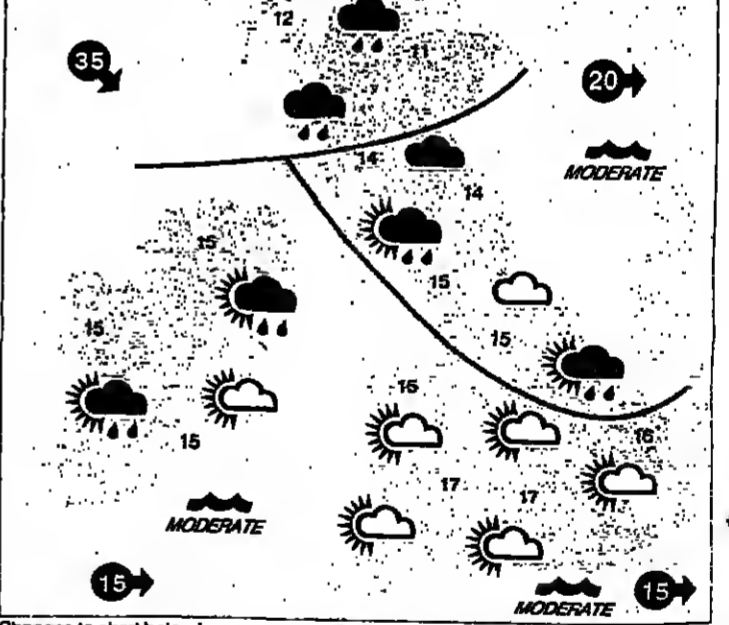
AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

Table showing weather conditions around Britain yesterday, including temperature, wind, and cloud cover for various locations like Aberdeen, London, and Manchester.

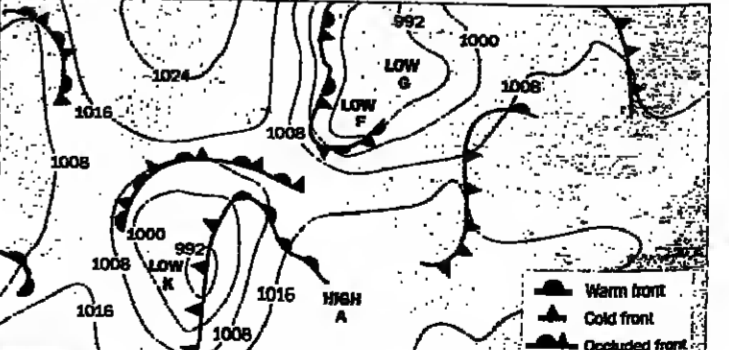
ABROAD

Table showing weather conditions abroad for various cities like Accro, Madrid, Rome, and Tokyo.

NOON TODAY



Changes to chart below from noon: complex lows F and G ill in situ. Low K moves very little and deepens. High A slowly declines as it extends its influence northeastwards.



HIGH TIDES

Table showing high tide times for various locations like Aberdeen, Avonmouth, and Cardiff.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Table showing highest and lowest temperatures for various locations.

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING. Recycled paper made up of 41% of the material for UK newspapers in the last year of 1997.

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THE TIMES

INSIDE SECTION
2
TODAY



BUSINESS
The Chinese can ride out the Asian crisis
PAGE 25



ARTS
Broadway babe Bernadette Peters hits London
PAGES 29-31



SPORT
Morgan aiming for net gains in Kuala Lumpur
PAGES 33-40

TELEVISION AND RADIO
Pages 38, 39

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 16 1998

Institutions aim to apply brakes to proposed move to US

LucasVarity investors to rebel



By PAUL DURMAN
UK shareholders in LucasVarity are unhappy about the brake systems group's plans to turn itself into a US company and may be prepared to block the move.

Some institutions are sceptical that LucasVarity needs to make the switch — quitting the FTSE 100 index in the process — in order to take part in the consolidation in the auto components industry. Setting out its plans last week, LucasVarity complained that it felt constrained by the reluctance among UK investors to allow their companies to take on the high

level of borrowings that have become familiar in the US. LucasVarity expects to issue the document setting out the detail of its change of domicile in about a fortnight's time. The move requires the support of three-quarters of the shareholders who vote, either in person or by proxy, at a meeting to be held in November.

Richard Regan, head of investments at the Association of British Insurers, which represents many of the largest investors in the UK stock market, said: "There is considerable disquiet that they intend to change domicile. One must await their document to see what advantages they are going to claim will come from this, but they are going to have to be pretty convincing."

Some investors believe that Victor Rice, LucasVarity's British-born but American-based chief executive, wants to move to take advantage of the more generous level of US salaries and stock option awards. This was dismissed as "absolute rubbish" by Nick Jones, a LucasVarity spokesman. He said Mr Rice had already made significant sums of money from his long career in the US.

Another concern is that the move to the US will mean that Varity, previously run by Mr Rice, will have captured control of the former Lucas Industries without paying a premium to the UK group's shareholders. One senior investment executive said: "Senior shareholders did not invest in a company which they thought was going to be subject to the very different culture in the US."

LucasVarity believes one of the reasons it was unable to compete to acquire the brakes business of IAT, recently sold to Continental for \$1.9 billion (£1.4 billion), was the negative view of highly borrowed companies taken by UK investors. However, having received £803 million for Varity Perkins, the diesel engine business sold to Caterpillar of the US at the end of last year, LucasVarity currently has net cash. One leading fund manager said: "They're hardly strapped for cash, are they? Perhaps they want to buy General Motors."

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	5281.7	(+13.1)
Yield	3.12%	
FTSE All Share	2434.89	(+3.33)
NASDAQ	Closed	
New York		
Dow Jones	7951.01	(-5.66)
S&P Composite	1028.71	(-1.01)

US RATE

Federal Funds	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Long bond	104 1/2%	(104 1/2%)
Yield	5.25%	(5.25%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth interbank	7 1/4%	(7 1/4%)
Libor 3m	114.03	(113.58)

STERLING

New York	1.6733	(1.6790)
London	1.6728	(1.6785)
DM	2.8237	(2.8557)
FF	9.4675	(9.5745)
SP	2.2214	(2.2547)
Yen	222.19	(223.10)
E Index	102.1	(103.0)

DOLLAR

London	1.6890	(1.6870)
FF	5.6613	(5.6880)
SP	1.3904	(1.3993)
Yen	133.20	(132.40)
S Index	108.9	(109.5)

Tokyo close Yen 132.62

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Dec)	\$12.70	(n/a)
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GOLD

London close	\$290.75	(\$289.55)
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* denotes midday trading prices

Chancellor hints at G7 desire for lower rates

By JANET BUSH AND ALASDAIR MURRAY
GORDON BROWN yesterday hinted broadly that interest rates in America and Britain are set to fall as part of the Group of Seven's new emphasis on promoting growth in the troubled world economy. This was despite indications by Eddie George, the Governor of the Bank of England, addressing the TUC, that there would not be a cut in interest rates in the near future. The City, though, appeared to believe the Chancellor, who has no direct influence on interest rates, rather than the Governor, who does. The pound slumped more than 3 pence to close at DM2.8235 as the City digested good inflation figures which were bang in line with the Bank of England's 2.5 per cent inflation target. In a briefing shortly before he flew to Tokyo yesterday for talks with the Japanese Finance Minister, the Central Bank Governor and the head of Japan's economic planning agency, Mr Brown re-emphasised the new perception that the balance of risks to the world economy had moved from inflation to lack of growth. Without being drawn on interest rates in individual G7 countries, he highlighted recent statements both by Alan Greenspan, Chairman of the US Federal Reserve, and last week by the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee. He welcomed the MPC's state-



Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, addressed the Trades Union Congress yesterday. He said the fight against inflation was paramount. TUC reports, page 22

Microsoft passes GE to become US largest

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK
ON THE DAY that it was accused of tampering with evidence, Microsoft has surpassed GE to become America's biggest company with a market value of \$262 billion (£156 billion). An obstruction of justice charge would be a first for Bill Gates's software house and could result in executives being sent to prison. Any charge may also become part of the Government's anti-trust case. The company denied new allegations that it destroyed documents relevant to the Justice Department case. Such an act would constitute a criminal offence of obstruction of justice. Microsoft said it handed over 1.3 million pages of evidence. The allegations originated from a former Microsoft employee who testified in a separate case against the company. According to the suit, Microsoft deleted files about dealings at its offices in Germany between 1991 and 1993. There have also been separate claims that Microsoft deleted e-mails connected to the anti-trust suit in the run-up to the filing of charges in May. The suit concerns the company's efforts to reach a dominant position in the Internet browser market and attempts to defend the dominance of its computer operating system. It was news of a three-week delay to the trial of the anti-trust case that provided the impetus Microsoft needed to overtake GE. The software company was not hit as hard by recent market turmoil as GE, which operates in more cyclical mar-

Budgens halts talks

Budgens has broken off takeover talks with Booker, leaving the cash-and-carry and food distribution group to find a new chief executive and go it alone. **Page 23**
Tanked up
Alvis and GKN yesterday laid out the terms to merge their armoured vehicle business — increasing pressure on Vickers to find a partner for its own battle tank arm. **Page 22**

Cortecs helicopter to go as loss deepens

By PAUL DURMAN
CORTECs, the drug development company, is to sell the helicopter that was one example of the lavish lifestyle enjoyed by Glen Travers, who was forced from the chairmanship in June over an expenses controversy. Mr Travers is now suing Cortecs for about £1.5 million, including rights to £200,000 or so of annual benefits that included school fees, plane tickets and membership of a business high-flyers organisation. Mr Travers has previously said that the company helicopter was widely used by other senior executives. Shares in Cortecs fell a further 13 per cent, to 51 1/2p, yesterday when the company reported disappointing regulatory

Coal rescue plans hit by backlash

NEW moves to rescue the coal industry ran into controversy yesterday as large industrial energy users and the Department of Trade and Industry (Christine Buckley writes). The backlash came after The Times revealed that Peter Mandelson, the Trade and Industry Secretary, had met Richard Budge, chief executive of RJB Mining, to discuss help for the industry. The Energy Intensive Users Group yesterday wrote to John Battle, the Energy Minister, demanding a price cap on the generators. Lisa Waters, policy adviser with the group, said: "We would be concerned about any government action that would further bump up the price of electricity."

Judge criticises Chinese walls

By RICHARD MILES
CHINESE WALLS — measures adopted by big companies to protect client confidentiality — do not work, a High Court judge said yesterday in a case brought against KPMG, the accountancy firm, by Prince Jefri, younger brother of the Sultan of Brunei. After acting for Prince Jefri in a different case, KPMG was asked to conduct a financial investigation code-named Project Gamma — for the Brunei Investment Agency, which the prince headed until his removal earlier this year. Mr Justice Pumfrey said that the investigation would touch on serious allegations about the prince and that information communicated by him to KPMG "may well be relevant to those allegations". Ordering

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At The Live Centre

CORBY

Commentary, page 23

Undermining Chinese walls

COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

Judges can be a cynical bunch but this is too much. One Justice Pumphrey has looked at a Chinese wall and pronounced it leaky. And this wall erected with all the skills that one would expect of a top firm of accountants such as KPMG.

City practitioners, whether bankers, brokers or accountants, have become as practised at putting up walls as any builder. It is crucial for clients that the walls are water-tight or, heaven forbid, information gleaned one side of a transaction might permeate through to people in another part of the organisation who might be able to put it to good use. Clients would take a dim view of such behaviour and so would the regulators.

Only a cynic would suggest that the Chinese version bears more resemblance to the Derbyshire dry stone wall than the heavily cemented barricades that surround Scary Spice's manor house. Yet that is the suggestion: that even in the best ordered organisations, there is seepage.

The case that has been brought to the attention of Justice Pumphrey involved the colourful Prince Jefri of Brunei and accountants KPMG. The accountants have long been privy to the activities of the Brunei Investment Agency, where the Sultan's younger brother used to call the shots. Prince Jefri's interests ranged far beyond the normal scope of national coffers. His pas-

sion for gifts of dubious taste went far beyond what is stocked at Asprey.

The scale of his spending, coupled with some unfortunate investments, has given the Sultan some concern of late. Being toppled from the perch of the richest man in the world by a computer nerd is likely to put any potentate into ill humour and have them demanding investigations.

So who else would the Sultan turn to but trusty accountants KPMG? No doubt, he asked them if they would be prepared to take on Project Jemina, as it was tastefully called, without making use of any of the information the firm had gleaned about Prince Jefri's activities while it was working for the BIA. And no doubt KPMG crossed its corporate heart and said no, of course, it would make sure that any of that information was buried well behind the Chinese wall, no matter how useful or relevant it might be. No, it would start from scratch on Project Jemina.

Well, the judge was not entirely convinced. His ruling, casting its implicit question mark over the impermeability of Chinese walls, does have worrying implications for the major accounting

firms - and their clients. Now that there are fewer, but bigger, accounting practices, clients will be limited in their choice of firms capable of, for instance, carrying out audits and advising on corporate activity. It is important for the firms that clients believe in the Chinese wall kept of brightening up institutional walls.

Taylor is only a part-time chairman of Booker, hence his miserly remuneration package last year of just £124,000. But investors are beginning to wonder just how thinly directors should be spreading themselves if they are to devote to companies the attention they need. Jonathan Taylor is a mere beginner by the standards of Professor Roland Smith and Lord Marshall, but it seems fair to say that Booker might have benefited from rather more of his attention. If the converse is true, then perhaps he should not have been there at all.

The decision by Budgens to

back away from any deal with the company has only added fuel to fears that the situation within the company is even more depressing than the recent run of profit warnings has indicated. To lose one suitor, in the shape of Somerfield, was unfortunate, but to lose a second...

The Budgens share price reacted with the opposite of disappointment when the collapse of the merger talks was revealed. Blaming the collapsing Booker share price was not entirely convincing. Neither was Taylor's effort to try to portray the recent attempts to find a saviour as merely time-wasting distractions, deflecting him from the main business.

Booker looks in a sorry state. Its cash-and-carry business may have attractions for second-tier grocers in search of extra buying power, but it could be an expensive distraction, as John von Spreckelsen may wisely have concluded. What the company really needs is decent management.

providing Isas, itself a somewhat surprising comment, given the question marks still hanging over the Government's new savings scheme. But it also said it would market the plans through Co-op stores. Other supermarket operators take a highly cautious view of Isas and may be surprised to see the Co-op shops overtaking them.

Co-op customers, once accustomed to the idea of "the divi", may be attracted by the Isas savings scheme. Like the divi, it could provide a way of cementing customers to the stores, slowing down the inexorable drift of shoppers towards the supermarket giants. If the Co-op Bank is prepared to think positively about selling the Isas, the least the Treasury could do is hasten to explain exactly what it is.

Time for a little co-operation

The Co-operative Bank has carved a unique niche as an ethical banker. This statement is no reflection on the morals of its rivals, merely an assessment of its clever market positioning.

The success of the bank has been in stark contrast to the leaden-footedness of the retail side of the co-operative movement. But the Co-op, in its various guises, still accounts for a valuable slice of the high street. When Andrew Regan tried, and spectacularly failed, to take over the Co-op two years ago, he had the right target, only the wrong method.

Now it seems that the Co-op Bank may be ready to help to shake up the stores a bit. Yesterday it declared its enthusiasm for

Bowing out?

THE champagne will be flowing around Hanover Square as partners in Henley & Baker celebrate the £70 million sale of their business to Americans. That three of the top property partnerships have decided to sell out in recent months rekindles thoughts of those estate agents who were persuaded - very easily - to sell to clever financial institutions such as Lloyds Bank and Nationwide just at the top of the market. Can it be long before the partners at Jones Lang Wootton are persuaded that it is time to bow out?

Booker is jilted again as Budgens ends talks

By FRASER NELSON

BOOKER yesterday lost its second takeover suitor in two weeks as Jon von Spreckelsen, chief executive of Budgens, pulled out of bid talks (see Commentary, this page).

Booker shares fell 28p to a new low of 177p as most City analysts abandoned hope of another takeover approach.

Jonathan Taylor, chairman of Booker, said that both companies had seen strong logic in a merger - but had been unable to work out a formula for an all-share reverse takeover of Budgens by Booker.

Mr Taylor said: "The prime issue was the impossibility of finding appropriate terms for an all-share transaction when our shares had fallen through the floor. At these levels, I believe, Booker shareholders would have been under-

represented in any combined group. The value equation was impossible to achieve."

He said that Budgens pulled out first - but only because was obliged to give news at yesterday's annual shareholder meeting.

Mr von Spreckelsen, who would have been chief executive of the enlarged group, backed Mr Taylor's version of events. He said: "Disappointment does not come in to it. We had very amicable discussions, but we could not go through with it in the end."

Both companies denied suggestions of a black hole in Booker's accounts - rumours that emerged after Somerfield pulled out of a merger two weeks ago.

Mr Taylor said Booker's priority is to appoint a chief execu-



Taylor: deal failed on terms

business and Daehnfeldt, the seeds business. Mr Taylor suggested that the disposals could well be made within weeks.

The City said that Booker could be worth 200p a share if broken up by one of the finance houses understood to be in talks with Somerfield.

One analyst said: "There was so little logic in the Budgens deal that no one really thought it would go through - so we are not entirely surprised. The shares may flush out another bid - Booker may be a dog, but it's not a bankrupt dog, which is its valuation kind of suggestion."

Mr von Spreckelsen played down suggestions that he was hungry for a more challenging role, saying: "Budgens is still expanding very fast, and it's a very enjoyable job for me." The shares rose 3 1/2p to 73 1/2p.

City questions bad-debt move by Capital

By JASON NISSE

CAPITAL Corporation, the casino group that last year was mired in rows about Stock Exchange and internal investigations, has run into another spat, this time about its accounting practices.

The group has changed the way it deals with its bad debts, so that it nets off the losses and the recoveries and adds the resulting figure to its turnover. This change was revealed with its results for the half year to July 12, which showed a £1.46 million fall in turnover to £13.8 million.

City analysts questioned the change - which is estimated to have added as much as £1 million to Capital's half-year figures - and some suggested that it may breach the Companies Act provisions on netting off costs and expenses.

Andrew Chandler, Capital's

finance director, denied any breach of the Act and said the change was to bring the company in line with its peers.

However, Barry Hardy, finance director of its main competitor, London Clubs International (LCI), said its accounting policies were different, with bad debts from gamblers separated as a charge. LCI made an unsuccessful bid for Capital last year.

Capital had a bad half, with a fall-off in business from Far Eastern and Middle Eastern customers adding to the pain of a £1.1 million increase in betting levy. Pre-tax profits fell from £6.84 million to £5.01 million and earnings from 7.34p to 3.18p. There is an unchanged dividend of 1.0p.

Tempus, page 24

Reduced costs boost Dorling Kindersley

By RAYMOND SNOODY, MEDIA EDITOR

PETER KINDERSLEY, founder of Dorling Kindersley, said yesterday the international reference and educational publisher had reached a turning point by cutting its cost base and hitting financial targets.

The company, whose financial performance has not been as sparkling as some of its products in the past few years, has been hit by the strength of the pound, turmoil in the American book-selling trade and difficulties in international product licensing.

Yesterday, it announced slightly better than expected pre-tax profits of £9 million for the year to June 30, against £7.7 million last time. Reorganisation costs were £2.5 million.

Apart from a strong autumn list including the DK Illustrated Oxford Dictionary and two

Star Wars books, Mr Kindersley said savings from the restructuring of £3 million to £4 million this year would drop to the bottom line.

Lorna Tibbani, media analyst at Panmure Gordon, said: "The products were always good but it was like blinking in the dark, hardly anyone saw. There is a new focus on distribution and marketing." She is looking for pre-tax profits of £10.5 million this year.

The share price rose 25p on the results to close at 205p. Turnover rose from £180 million to £184 million, helping headline earnings to 8p (6p). The dividend is held at 4.6p.

Mr Kindersley promised a new emphasis on education and revealed that DK Multimedia is to be renamed DK Interactive Learning.

Dixon signals advance



Paul Dixon, rear, and Garry Cuthbertson, finance director of Dixon Motors, yesterday

DIXON MOTORS, the car and motorcycle dealer, lifted pre-tax profits for the half year to June 30 by 68 per cent to £6.7 million, despite what it described as an "uncertain market" (Matthew Barbour writes).

The company, which bought its third Ford dealership last month, saw new car sales grow by more than 17 per cent on a like-for-like basis, against an increase of 7.8 per cent nationally. Sales of used cars grew by more than 20 per cent on a like-for-like basis.

However, Paul Dixon, chief executive, said that the used-

car market had a "challenging" second quarter, with supply exceeding demand, especially in the nearly new market, resulting in a significant fall in resale values.

The company took advantage of the growing popularity of mopeds and motorcycles with the £15 million acquisition of privately owned Cosmopolitan Motors in July.

"Sales of mopeds and other commuter bikes are growing even faster than sales of motorbikes, especially in major cities," Mr Dixon said.

"Our policy of investing in new car and motorcycle dealerships, many of which are

still to reach to maturity, gives us confidence for the future."

Mr Dixon injected a note of caution by saying that current sales of new cars had started to slow by the middle of August despite retail initiatives and incentives from the company and the carmakers.

"There is no doubt that the August market was affected by the upward trend in interest rates and the uncertain worldwide economic prospects," Mr Dixon said.

Turnover rose 84 per cent to £318 million, from £175 million. Earnings per share rose to 14.9p (12.4p). The interim dividend is to be 3p (2.5p).

Oil price forces Saga into write-off

By CARL MORTISHED INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS EDITOR

SAGA PETROLEUM, the Norwegian energy group which surprised the market in 1996 with a \$1.23 billion (£735 million) bid for Santa Fe Energy, has become the first major North Sea oil group to write down its assets in response to the weak oil price.

The Norwegian energy company is taking a NOK2.5 billion (£200 million) hit to its profits in the current year, mainly due to the oil price and disappointing exploration results. Saga is now forecasting a loss of NOK1.6 billion for the full year.

Diderik Schmitler, the new chief executive, blamed the Santa Fe deal for the write-off and said the price paid was too high. Santa Fe was auctioned by Kuwait Petroleum Company and Saga based its winning bid on an \$18-19 per barrel oil price compared with yesterday's price of less than \$13.

Saga's write-off, which includes some NOK1.3 billion in exploration acreage is likely to be followed by other companies that acquired acreage in recent years. Lasmo has already warned that it might write down some of the North Sea fields acquired from Ultramar and Premier Oil is expected to write down exploration acreage.

Receivers called into Utility Cable

By CHRIS AYRES

THE embarrassing saga of Utility Cable, the former investment trust transformed into a road-digging venture for gas, water and cable television companies, ended in disaster yesterday when receivers were called in.

Luke Johnson, the PizzaExpress entrepreneur who held a 55 per cent stake, is near to have lost several million pounds through the company. Mr Johnson said: "I thought this was happening. I'm sad but had no idea this was happening, and find it all very depressing."

Mr Johnson refused to blame manage-

ment for the failure, or to comment on whether its shares were over-hyped. The company's demise will also come as a severe blow to Brian McCann, its chief executive, who was hired to turn it around.

Utility Cable was worth £57 million when it was formed in 1994, but was valued at just £3.3 million when its shares were suspended on Monday. Its problems ranged from the breakdown of the IRA ceasefire in Northern Ireland, to technical hitches in Britain and the general slowdown of the cable television market.

Although Mr Johnson recently increased his stake in Utility Cable, he re-

signed as a non-executive director of the company last year. Finbarr O'Connell, joint administrative receiver and a partner at Grant Thornton, yesterday said it was likely that Utility Cable would be broken-up and sold off within the next two weeks. "I have already been contacted by a huge amount of people," Mr O'Connell said yesterday.

The company's RS Kennedy and Crawshaw Robbins divisions are likely to be sold to gas and water utilities respectively, while a number of cable television operators have put in bids for the contracts held by its JP Fitzpatrick subsidiary.

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Modest gains at the close

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Table of equity prices for various sectors including ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, BANKS, BREWERIES, PUBS & REST, BUILDING MATERIALS, CHEMICALS, CONSTRUCTION, DISTRIBUTORS, and ENGINEERING VEHICLES.

Main table of equity prices categorized by sector: FOOD MANUFACTURERS, ELECTRICITY, ELECTRONIC & ELECT, HOUSEHOLD GOODS & TEXT, INSURANCE, INVESTMENT TRUSTS, LEISURE & HOTELS, MEDIA, OIL & GAS, OTHER FINANCIAL, PHARMACEUTICALS, PRINTING & PAPER, PROPERTY, RETAILERS FOOD, RETAILERS GENERAL, SUPPORT SERVICES, TELECOMMUNICATIONS, TRANSPORT, and WATER.

Table of equity prices for BRITISH FUNDS, including sub-sections for SHORTS (under 5 years), LONGS (over 15 years), UNDATED, and INDEX-LINKED (on projected inflation of 5%).

Large advertisement for Healey Baker's, featuring the slogan '10 US for £70' and 'Reshaped Brick advances'. The ad includes text about 'Weeks to back share profits inc' and 'Clump recru by Card Cle'.

Handwritten Arabic text: 'سكزا من الاصل'

Healey & Baker sold to US firm for £70m

By CARL MORTISHED

HEALEY & BAKER yesterday became the third top firm of British property agents to sell out to American investors this year. The partnership has accepted a £70 million offer to merge its business with Cushman & Wakefield, a private US firm of real estate agents controlled by Mitsubishi Estate.

Based in Hanover Square, Healey & Baker traces its origins back to 1820 but today boasts a staff of 750 and owns operations in 14 countries.

Paul Orchard-Lisle, the senior partner, said that the two firms had been working together for eight years and that

a merger was the next logical step. "The way of the world is that leading businesses will operate on a global basis," he said. "We are finding that clients want a single service provider worldwide."

A complex deal will make multimillionaires of the partners while giving shares in Cushman & Wakefield to the staff. Healey & Baker will carry on trading as a partnership under its own name with responsibility for Europe and the Middle East within C&W's worldwide network.

Mr Orchard-Lisle's 3.85 per cent stake in the partnership, will generate a gain of £2.7 million but the senior partner, who will continue to run the UK partnership, said that the taxman would be claiming some £20 million of the £70 million consideration.

Healey & Baker staff are being locked into the firm with contracts offering significant performance-related bonuses. About £25 million of the £70 million payout is being set aside to buy shares in Cushman & Wakefield to be distributed among equity and salary partners as well as to other staff.

Healey & Baker's move follows the £59 million takeover of rival Hillier Parker by CB Richard Ellis in July. Earlier in the year the Richard Ellis partnership was torn asunder in a dispute over an offer from two separate American firms. The international arm was acquired by CB Commercial and Insignia bought the UK partnership.

Cushman & Wakefield was founded in 1917 and employs 5,500 people across the US. Last year Healey & Baker had fee income of £55 million and the firm estimates that revenue in the current year will total £65 million. C&W's estimated 1998 turnover is \$500 million (£300 million), providing a total of £368 million for the combined operation.

Reshaped Britax advances

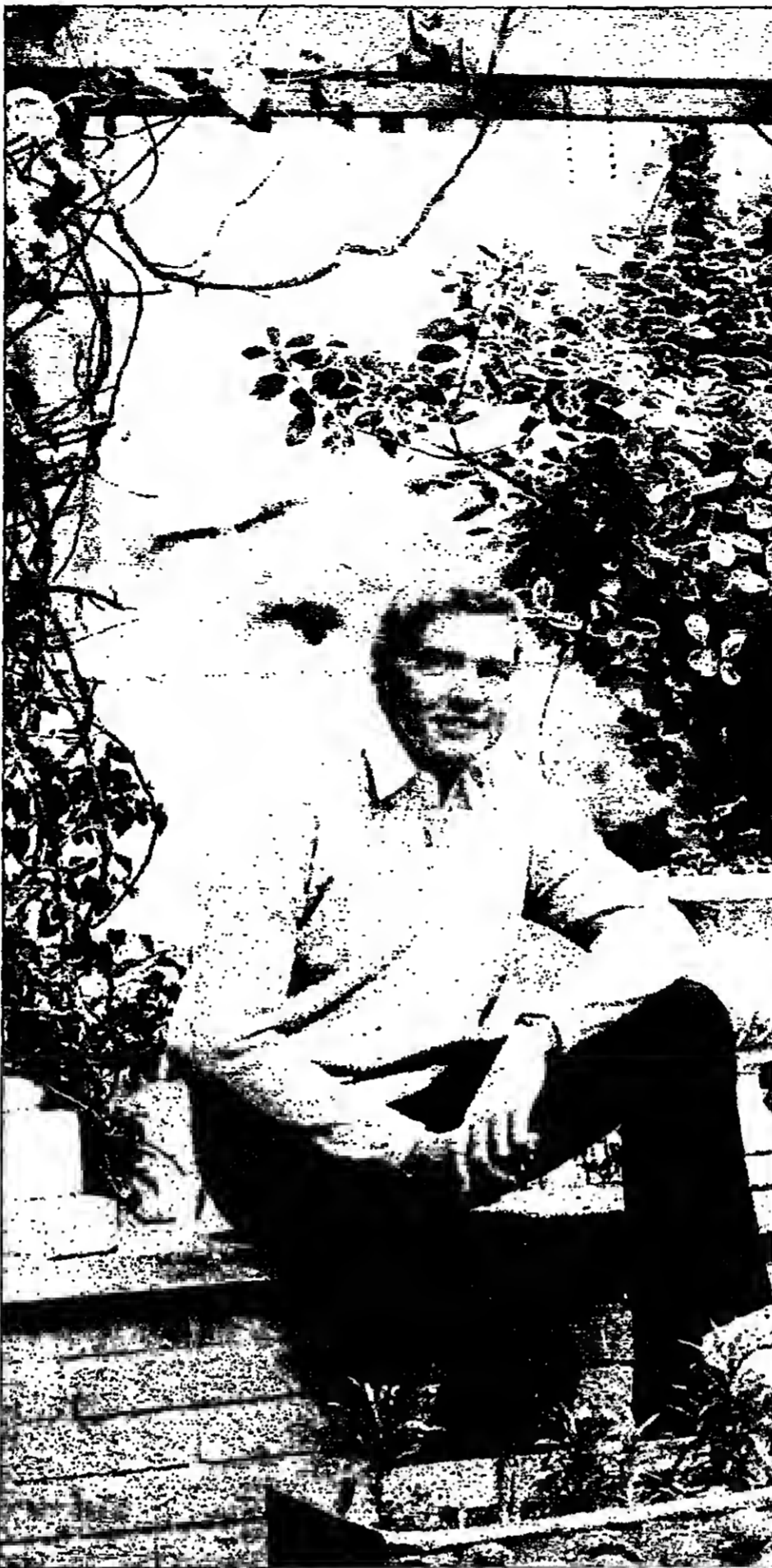
AN 18-MONTH reshaping programme at Britax International, the engineering group, helped increase interim profits by 21 per cent to £26.81 million from £22.2 million (Matthew Barbour writes).

The company, which finished its restructuring programme last month with the sale of its Dutch and British vehicle-leasing operations, saw profits improve in both the automotive equipment and aircraft interiors divisions by 20 per cent and 31 per cent respectively. Profits for the childcare products unit dropped 10.2 per cent to £7 million.

Turnover on continuing operations for the half to June 30 was £259.8 million (£191.41 million), while earnings per share increased 17 per cent to 5.25p (4.50p). Interim dividend is raised to 0.914p (0.85p).

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Paul Orchard-Lisle, who described the deal with Cushman & Wakefield as the next logical step

Martin to defy the pessimists and open 80 pubs

By ROBERT COLE CITY CORRESPONDENT

J D WETHERSPOON, the pub company run by Tim Martin, is fighting against the increasing pessimism in the sector by pledging to open 70 to 80 new outlets this year, a similar number next year and to try to have doubled the size of its 252-strong chain by 2001.

Wetherspoon opened 68 pubs in its last financial year, 20 more than in the previous year. Meanwhile, Whitbread, one of Wetherspoon's oldest established competitors with 3,400 leased and managed pubs, said its was slowing down a £200 million expansion programme because of recessionary pressures and the price of high street sites.

The finance for the development will come from a combination of cash generated from profits, from debt and from money received in further sales and leaseback arrangements.

Wetherspoon's ambitious expansion plans, which it says will cost £150 million and create 2,000 jobs, comes as it reported improved pre-tax profits. But it also gave a disappointing update on current trading. "Like-for-like sales in the period since the year end decreased by 1 per cent." However, sales picked up after the first two weeks, which had been particularly slow.

In the last financial year to August 2, like-for-like sales grew by 2 per cent. The company said it would have been nearer a per cent but, because it has a policy of not having televisions in its pubs, sales had been affected by the football World Cup.

Pre-tax profits rose from £17.6 million to £20.2 million, and were bolstered by an additional £15 million of property profits generated as the company sold sites and then leased them back.

Earnings per share, before property profits, rose from 8.7p to 9.9p. The company is paying a final dividend of 1.45p, up from 1.32p, making a total for the year of 2.2p, 10 per cent ahead of last time.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Servomex suffers worst one-day fall

SHARES of Servomex suffered their sharpest one-day fall yesterday after the struggling gas instruments producer said its profits had dropped 75 per cent at the halfway stage. The company, which generates 80 per cent of its sales from overseas, blamed the strong translation of profits. It also gave warning that the outlook was not good. Terry Clements, chairman, said: "In common with the majority of manufacturing exporters, we are finding that economic circumstances worldwide are adversely affected."

Its shares, which were trading at 370p six months ago, fell 21 per cent to a seven-year low of 147p yesterday. Charterhouse Tilney, its house broker, now expects the company's profits to decline for the second year running, with £2.5 million for the full year. It had previously forecast £3.4 million. Servomex said its order book had declined 3.6 per cent, to £4.21 million. However, the company said its Butler Montec water-monitoring division should improve over the next four months. Overall, earnings were 1.4p (5p a share, and the interim dividend, due on October 30, was frozen at 2.85p.

Mucklow moves ahead

MUCKLOW, the commercial property group, saw the value of its property portfolio rise from £240 million to £267 million in the year to June 30. Over the period, the company bought a three million hectare industrial site in Wednesbury; the headquarters of Midlands Electricity, in Halesowen; and a car showroom in Cheltenham. Its overall vacancy rate fell from 21,700 sq ft to 16,500 sq ft. Its pre-tax profits were £13.4 million (£11.9 million) leaving earnings of 7.53p (7p) per share. The shares added 2p to 144p.

IRG loss falls to £1.1m

INDEPENDENT RADIO GROUP, the Wigan company that controls radio stations in Scotland, the North West and the South East, yesterday announced a fall in pre-tax losses from £1.8 million to £1.1 million in the six months to June. Sales remained flat at about £1.7 million, while losses per share fell from 9.9p to 5.8p. John Bateson, the chairman, said: "The outlook for radio advertising is encouraging." He added that the second half would be hit by the delayed launch of a new station, Wire FM. The shares were unchanged at 64p.

Sales grow at Freeport

FREEPORT LEISURE, which runs factory outlet retail villages, said its tenants' like-for-like sales had grown 9 per cent over July and August. Freeport added 60,000 feet of selling space to its outlets over the year to June 27, allowing pre-tax profits to grow to £2.81 million (£1.78 million). Earnings were 10.63p (5.65p) and the final dividend doubles to 1p a share. The company said that it had little to fear from an economic downturn, as it was set up during a recession. Freeport shares jumped 17p to 325p at yesterday's close.

Telewest share deal

TELEWEST COMMUNICATIONS said MediaOne International Holdings has conditionally agreed to acquire up to 180 million Telewest shares at \$2.25 (£1.34) a share from Southwestern Bell. The exact number of shares will be decided over the coming weeks. Telewest said that under the terms of the company's agreements with certain of its main corporate shareholders, it has first offer rights with MediaOne over the shares. The purchase of the Southwestern stake will give MediaOne 29.9 per cent of Telewest shares.

TT seeks to buy back shares as profits increase

By MATTHEW BARBOUR

TT GROUP, the specialist engineering company, is looking to buy back about 20 per cent of its stock to bolster the company's plummeting share price.

Shares in TT closed down 3 1/2p yesterday to reach a four-year low of 205p, having fallen from a high of 385p just four months ago.

John Newman, chief executive, said that, although at present the board has the right to repurchase up to only 10 per cent of the issued stock, it will be approaching shareholders to acquire a further 10 per cent. "At the moment TT shares are better value than any others in the sector, and we have little choice but to prop up the disappointing share price," he said. He attributed the slump to a general malaise in the engineering sector.

The announcement came on the back of a 15 per cent rise in pre-tax profits for the six months to June 30 to £31.3 mil-

lion (£27 million) on sales up 10 per cent to £324 million (£294 million).

Mr Newman said the growth in profits was the result of a "good performance" from the wire and cable business acquired in March last year, while the rest of the business had "good organic growth of just over 3 per cent".

While the Asian crisis did not have a "material" impact on the group, accounting for only 7 per cent of total sales, the strength of sterling took £0.8 million off first-half profits. "It's tough out there. We just have to respond to it," Mr Newman said.

He added that the level of TT's order book remains subdued, although he said that reflected a move by customers to adopt a "just-in-time demand" and thin inventories ahead of the August Bank Holiday.

Earnings per share are up to 12.7p (11.4p). The interim dividend will be 3.69p (3.22p).

Delta to cut 330 jobs as part of restructuring

By ADAM JONES

UPTO 330 jobs are to go in the next six months at Delta, the engineer, as it tries to complete its restructuring while struggling with the downturn in Asia and the strength of the pound.

Delta said yesterday that pre-tax profits fell from £33.1 million to £22.2 million in the first half of the year, as the Asian financial turmoil hurt second quarter trading.

Exports of electrical equipment from the UK to Hong Kong and Malaysia were among the hardest-hit activities. This was partly balanced by an increase in exports out of Delta's circuit breaker factory in Malaysia, but overall sales to the Asia-Pacific region slumped 12 per cent in the six months.

Delta said more normal order patterns had returned since the second quarter, albeit at lower levels. The group was also hit by a slowdown in the market for plumbing prod-

ucts in Germany and Spain. Stock levels had to be reduced, cutting profits by £2 million.

Jon Scott-Maxwell, chief executive, said the difficult trading conditions had obscured underlying performance "and the benefits from strategic moves we are making".

Delta cut its exposure to commodity cables, a market crippled by oversupply, through a complex asset swap with BICC earlier this year. It is also integrating acquisitions in circuit protection and raw material for dry cell batteries.

About 130 of the imminent job losses will be in the electrical division, including many office jobs in the UK, with a further 100 going across Europe in the plumbing division.

Earnings per share fell from 13.6p to 8.5p, including goodwill amortisation. The interim dividend, maintained at 4.5p, will be paid on December 1.

Tempus, page 24

Clump recruited by Card Clear

By FRASER NELSON

CARD CLEAR, the anti-fraud company that recently fired its chief executive for "misrepresenting the nature of a payment" has replaced him with Carl Clump.

Mr Clump has been working with Ernest Saunders at International Card Enterprises (ICE), the US petrol credit card company. He takes the helm in December. He will be recruited on a highly incentivised pay package, likely to be dominated by share options.

Nigel Whitaker, chairman, said: "Mr Clump was second to set up a pan-European petrol credit card - which shows he has expertise."

Mr Clump was made managing director of ICE four years ago, and Mr Saunders

became chairman of the executive committee two years ago.

Mr Clump said he met Mr Saunders on a monthly basis. He said: "I would say that I get on with him and find his advice valuable."

Mr Whitaker said that Mr Clump would be given an "attractive pay package" but said the basic salary would not necessarily be more than the £200,000 a year enjoyed by Brian Raven, his predecessor.

Card Clear generates a substantial chunk of its business from petrol stations who use its databases to see whether credit cards have been stolen.

ICE, based in Minneapolis, runs the Overdrive and Dialcard fuel cards used by many British motorists.

Redrow attacks planning system

By MATTHEW BARBOUR

REDROW, the housebuilder, yesterday attacked Britain's planning system after announcing a 34 per cent rise in full-year pre-tax profits.

The company said that high interest rates and economic uncertainty in the past year had made market conditions "difficult", but insisted that the outlook was still positive.

Steve Morgan, chairman, said: "There remains an undoubted demand for new homes and I see no return to the boom-bust days."

However, he added: "There appears to be little political will in central and local government to address housing shortages. We appreciate that we should build on re-usable brownfield sites, but often it

takes longer to get planning permission to build there than on greenfield sites. It makes a mockery of the Government's plans for urban regeneration."

Mr Morgan said: "We have a quality landbank in quality locations with a quality product to match. We have a strong forward sales position and feel confident that further progress will be maintained." Redrow would continue to expand all sides of its business, and would focus on the South, South East and South West.

Pre-tax profits for the year rose to £48.2 million (£36.1 million) on turnover up 21 per cent to £307.2 million. Earnings per share rose 38 per cent to 15.7p (11.4p). The full-year dividend rises to 4.05p (3.6p).

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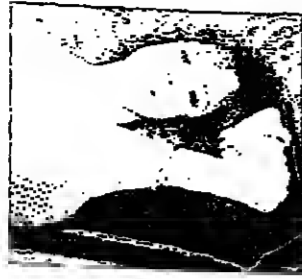
THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Main table containing unit trust prices, organized by fund name, share price, and performance metrics. Includes sections for various fund categories like Equity, Bond, and Money Market.

MOROCCO...STOP THREE HOURS AWAY...STOP ROYAL AIR MAROC...GO. Includes an advertisement for Royal Air Maroc flights to Morocco, featuring a map and promotional text.

THE WE... Birmingham is on... arts events. It's a b... Includes a large advertisement for Birmingham arts events, featuring a portrait of a woman and promotional text.

2013年9月16日



SHOWBIZ
Bernadette Peters's Broadway tunes
PAGE 31

THE TIMES ARTS

RECORDS
Putting Derek Jarman's words to music
PAGE 31



Roll up for a taste of things to come

Birmingham is offering 200 free previews of imminent arts events. It's a brilliant idea, says Daniel Rosenthal

A t next week's inaugural Birmingham ArtsFest, the Royal Shakespeare Company will present Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*, a 30-minute quiz in which actors provide an unholily alliance of stand-up comedy, audience participation and the best of the Bard. Purists will squirm, and comparisons with the Reduced Shakespeare Company are inevitable. Yet this attempt by the RSC to widen its audience is precisely the kind of unstuffy initiative that ArtsFest's organisers hope will make it a revolution in cultural marketing.

Between 8pm on Friday September 25 and 11pm on Sunday September 27 there will be 200 free performances lasting 30 minutes or less, at ten indoor and three outdoor venues across Birmingham city centre. Seventy West Midlands-based music, theatre, dance and visual arts groups, including Birmingham's Symphony Orchestra, Touring Opera and Royal Ballet, will perform short pieces or "taster" extracts. Some will also hold workshops.

The showcase approach has numerous precedents at trade level. The Society of London Theatre, for example, invites hundreds of corporate hospitality bookers to sample chunks from forthcoming West End shows. The British public, however, has never had access to such a wide-ranging package of "Taste now, buy later" previews.

ArtsFest is modelled on Amsterdam's hugely successful *Uitmarkt*, which for the past 20 years has transformed the last weekend in August into a 48-hour celebration of imminent cultural attractions. A visit to *Uitmarkt* 1998 demonstrated that Birmingham has borrowed a superb recipe.

The event's guiding principle is that you should be able to watch, say, a bizarre multimedia show, an all-girl pop band, a quirky comedy duo and a classical pianist all within the space of two hours and 200 metres. For free. It offered 400 performances at 26 venues, with the artists waiving fees (as they will at ArtsFest). Total attendance was about

'The British public has never before been able to taste now and buy later'

500,000, with 10,000 people gathering in front of the Koninklijk Palace on Dam Square for the opening gala, featuring the flamboyant cabaret star Karin Bloemen. Thousands more tuned in to television and radio highlights.

Two information markets, with about 60 covered stalls at each, provided posters, leaflets and booking forms (ArtsFest will have a similar set-up on Centenary Square). All in all, *Uitmarkt* is perfect for relaxed "cultural grazing": you have not paid to watch, so there is no resentment if a show disappoints, minimal frustration if you have a poor view outdoors, or fail to get into a packed indoor event.

Theatergroep de grens adopted the most tantalising tactics with its production of Tracey Letts's black comedy, *Killer Joe*. After 20 minutes, as we were beginning to delight in Letts's white trash

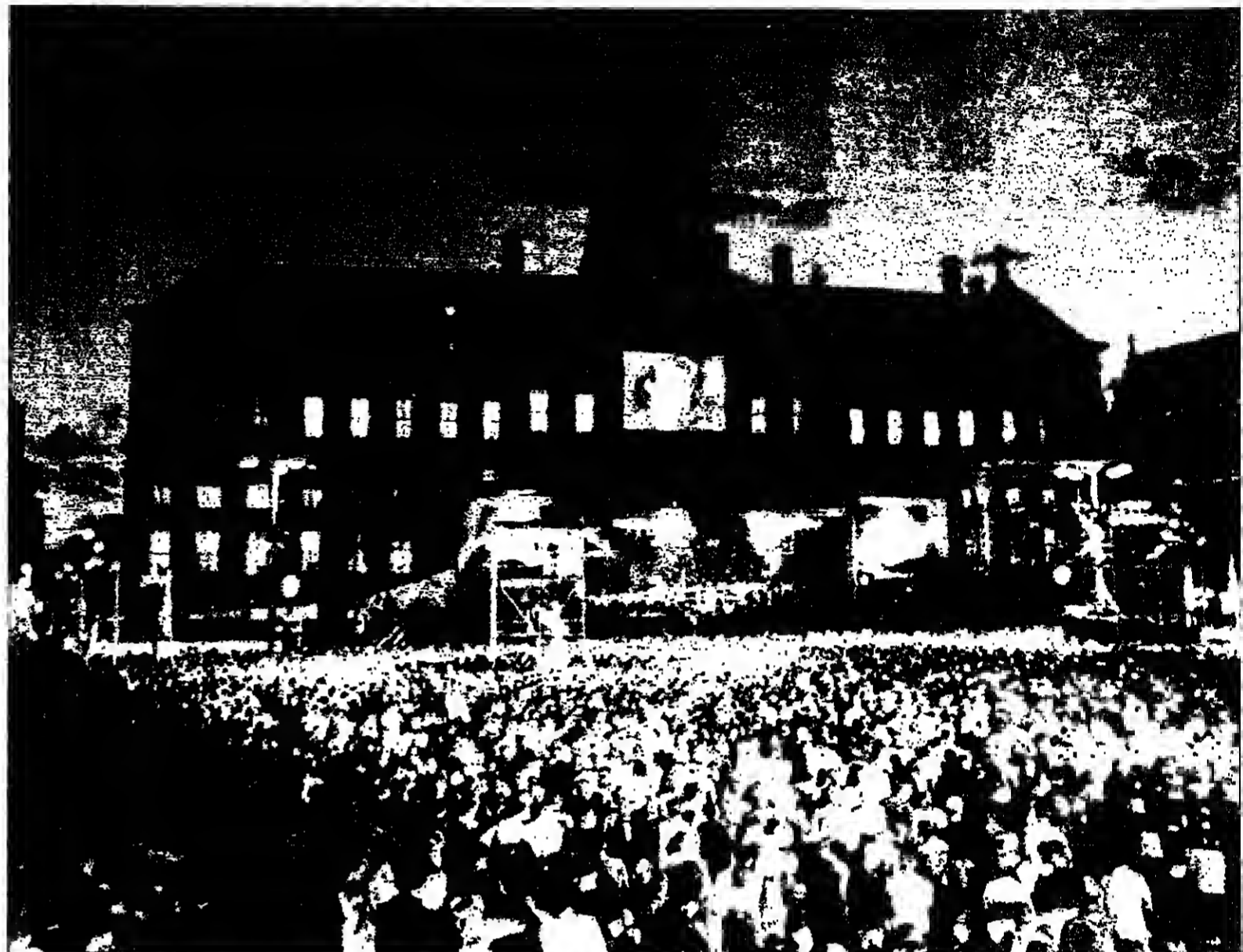
characters, the actors froze and a voice over the PA invited us to book for the play's Amsterdam run in October. Talk about "Always leave them wanting more".

The 64,000-guilder question, of course, is: do those who enjoy *Uitmarkt* subsequently buy tickets for full-length performances? It is indicative of Holland's relaxed approach to arts marketing (attributable, perhaps, to state subsidies of up to 90 per cent) that no research has been carried out.

Michiel Buchel, managing director of Amsterdam's *Uitmarkt*, which manages the weekend, says: "Anecdotally, we know a lot of people buy tickets months later, when they see an advertisement and recall an *Uitmarkt* performance. We want people to book ahead, but *Uitmarkt* is, above all, a party — a gift from artists to audience."

ArtsFest aims to recreate that party atmosphere, but Paul Kaynes, chief executive of Birmingham Arts Marketing, co-ordinating the event, wants to generate increased box-office revenue for all the participating companies. There will also be comprehensive audience research. Birmingham Arts Marketing surveys have shown that 75 per cent of the 2.4 million people living within a 45-minute drive of Birmingham city centre consider themselves "in the market" for arts events, but only 40 per cent are buying tickets. That leaves more than 800,000 potential new customers as ArtsFest's primary target.

"Many of those who don't currently attend believe that theatre, ballet or classical music are just not for them," says Kaynes. ArtsFest's no-risk, bite-sized presentation is, he argues, an ideal way to re-



The *Uitmarkt* in Amsterdam: an annual weekend festival giving free previews of 400 arts events to 500,000 people. Now Birmingham is to do the same

move such barriers. "We also want to introduce regular arts consumers to the smaller, more peripatetic organisations which produce extraordinary work but don't have a large media profile."

Visitors will be asked to fill in an ArtsFest Passport, giving details of which companies they have watched, and can expect follow-up phone calls. This research is a requirement of the Arts Council New Audi-

ences scheme, which has contributed £120,000 to ArtsFest, with a further £100,000 from Birmingham City Council. Kaynes anticipates a total audience of about 80,000. And, given that *Uitmarkt* oper-

ated just three stages when it began in 1978 and took five years to double in size, he hopes ArtsFest will be given time to grow: "I have absolute faith in our ability to build a huge audience," he says. If he

realises this vision, the ArtsFest formula should quickly be imitated by cities throughout Britain.

Details of ArtsFest are available from Birmingham Arts Marketing on 0121-627 1234

VISUAL ART: John Russell Taylor admires some racy modern Italians

Unbelievably tiring. Life passes by me. Speed and time are conspiring to crucify me... So intoned Binnie Barnes in 1931, courtesy of Noel Coward. It was no doubt what the world-weary sophisticate would think. But the Italian Futurists, though undoubtedly sophisticated, took a different view. For them the essence of modernity was in speed, in flight. Far from wearying it invigorated, and formed the basis of all their art.

Despite the efforts of the Royal Academy's *Italian Art in the 20th Century* exhibition in 1989, turn-of-the-century Italian art is not well known in this country. An important move towards greater familiarity with some key figures was made earlier this year with the opening of the Estorick Collection of Modern Italian Art in Canbury. The permanent collection includes some classic Futurist works, such as Balla's "simultaneous" painting of a violinist playing. Now, for its autumn show, the collection has brought over 23 prime Futurist paintings borrowed from the Galleria Nazionale

Fast forward to the Futurists



Giacomo Balla's *Dynamic Expansion + Speed* (circa 1913)

d'Arte Moderna in Rome, which holds probably the best collection of Futurists.

It is not a huge show. But it is an undeniably choice one, and Giacomo Balla (1871-1958) is rightly headlined in the title, *Balla and Futurist Italy*. His eight works in the show sum

up, and indeed largely anticipate, nearly all that Futurism strove for. *Dynamic Expansion + Speed* (1913) applies the simultaneous principle to a speeding car. *Bridge of Speed* (1913-15) features the dizzying aerial perspectives which fascinated Futurists in the experi-

ence of flying. *Science Against Obscurantism* (1920) reduces all to the confrontation of jagged opposing shapes.

The other great figure in bringing about the transition of Italian painting from hazy Symbolism to impulsive Modernism, Umberto Boccioni (1882-1916), is represented by two rather more traditional portraits, of a friend called Sylvia and of the composer Busoni. Other artists set off in different directions, but all from the dynamic centre which was the Futurist movement's resident philosopher, F.T. Marinetti. His wife Benedetta in fact provides one of the most thrilling evocations of flight. *Aeropainting of a Meeting with an Island* (1934-35), though Gerard Dottori's brilliant, Disneyfied *Miracle of Lights Flying* (1932) is not far behind — or below. The sheer energy level throughout is tonic, and unlike anything in British art of the time, even the Vorticists whom the Italian Futurists most resembled.

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THE WEIR

By Conor McPherson

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Finn pickings

AS THE mainstay of antipodean pop superstars Crowded House, Neil Finn found himself in the enviable position of fronting a band who won favour with both the critics and the record-buying public. But in 1996 Finn served an eviction order on Crowded House and launched a solo career, which began in earnest with the release last month of the album, *Try Whistling This*.

For the corresponding world tour Finn has assembled a whole new backing band, including his 14-year-old son, Liam, on guitar and occasional drums. An exhaustive American jaunt has knocked the group into shape. Liam never looked overawed by his surroundings, to the point where he even sang one of his own songs, *Empty Head*, during one of the extended encores.

It's a well-balanced set on the whole, with most of the new album getting an airing, along with the old reliables from the Crowded House songbook. After a sluggish start, Finn switched into showman

POP

mode by engaging the sellout crowd in Dublin's Olympia Theatre in a call-and-response routine during the forthcoming single, *Sinner*. There followed an acoustic interlude with fine versions of Crowded House favourites *Distant Sun* and *Four Seasons in One Day*, followed by a stint at the keyboards for *Walking on the Spot*.

The band returned but some of the new material, like *Dream Date* and *Faster than Light*, seemed formless and a bit too studied. The low point came when Finn started playing with his array of foot pedals, oblivious to the fact that his audience wasn't having quite the same fun as he was. Fresh impetus was added by the supremely catchy pop of *She Will Have Her Way* and then it was time for the encores, which included the show-stopping *Don't Dream it's Over*.

NICK KELLY

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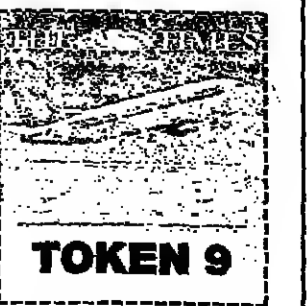
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BOOKING OPENS SEPTEMBER 29



LISTINGS Simply Red go intimate

RECOMMENDED TODAY

Guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Marit Hargie
LONDON
ANNA KARENINA: Nancy Meckler's marvellous production for Shared Experience returns, with Teresa Barham in her award-winning performance as the loveless Anna...



Mick Hucknall plays at the intimate Lyceum

with two separate programmes Programme One, long in format and featuring Christopher Bruce's popular Roster, danced to songs recorded by the Rolling Stones, produced by works by Stephen Davis and Jeremy James...



(From left) Nicky Henson, Robert Bathurst, Felicity Kendal and Josie Lawrence - all excellent in Michael Frayn's hilarious Alarms and Excursions

Refrain worth repeating

Have you ever tried to keep cool during a vital phone conversation with a menacing taxman who simply will not believe that the burglar alarm, the baby alarm, the smoke alarm and "call waiting" are simultaneous interruptions? By Michael Frayn's standards that seems no great challenge. In his highly enjoyable Alarms and Excursions, the assaults made by our soulless, gaudy age on Felicity Kendal, Josie Lawrence, Nicky Henson and Robert Bathurst often seem a lot more daunting.

THEATRE

And then we're off to an adjoining pair of those identical hotel rooms that litter the West, there to meet two English couples divided by class, false politeness and over-thin walls. With the upmarket Lawrence and Bathurst mistaken by a platinum-blond Kendall and a morose, gormless Henson for a couple called Kevin and Shaaron, some romps and pursuit of a mosquito interpreted as exuberant sex, loud porn

Wilde and woolly

the emotionally damaged stubber (a convincing Paul Rattray), the modern roles are poorly written. The play appears to be saying that what is important is to be a loved child, whether or not you are reared by your own parents. But while this is presented as holding good in Wilde's day, when we reach modern times Ravenhill offers little hope. Fidelity to a partner won't exist; even the stobbiest equivalent of a Miss Prism is useless if she snags up with a feckless mate.

NEW WEST END SHOWS

Jeremy Kingston's choice of theatre showing in London
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SEATS AT ALL PRICES
SKIN TIGHT: Long-running New Zealand play by Gay Harrison on the seasons of love, performed by Lorraine Matheson and Jed Brophy...

FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE

Geoff Brown's choice of the latest movies
NEW RELEASES
BABYMOONER (15): Single mother dreams of being a divy queen. Curly, but lovely, baby moon explores the dancehall scene. With Angela Lauren Smith. Director: Julian Harrington...



Bracknell (Celia Robertson) and Cardew (Tim Crouch)

Years of experience of attending Fringe theatres still haven't inoculated me against staged atrocity. Here is Mark Ravenhill's latest, in Nick Philippou's production for Actors' Touring Company. The 1890s episode of a moderately amusing prequel to The Importance of Being Earnest and the 1990s bits that interpenetrate them explore some modern disasters in child-rearing.

What does Collison bring to the part? A sweaty intensity and commanding profile that put more than one observer in mind of Ralph Fiennes's Hamlet. "Ralph is a stunning actor so it's very nice to be compared to him," Collison says, but adds: "I'm just trying to carve my own kind of path."

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CABARET: If you
genuine Broadway
Bernadette Peters, s
Alan Clark Forum
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2010 10 10

SHOWBIZ Show girl in town

Baby, look at you now

CABARET: If you want to see a genuine Broadway babe, catch Bernadette Peters, says Matt Wolf

Cameron Mackintosh's cheerfully self-exalting tribute to his own career at the Lyceum Theatre in June... Bernadette Peters stood ever so slightly out from the crowd.

Tomorrow, London gets to discover Peters at the Festival Hall, backed by a full orchestra in a version of the concert that she first performed to rave reviews at New York's Carnegie Hall in December, 1996.

Indeed, Stephen Sondheim's Broadway Baby (from his 1971 Folies) is one of Peters' chosen songs in an evening whose entire second half is devoted to the composer with whom Peters remains best associated.

Set these performances alongside Jerry Herman's 1975 cult favourite Mame and Mabel, in which Peters originated the role of silent movie comedienne Mabel Normand oppo-

sition the Mack Sennett of the late Robert Preston, and you have that rare performer whose career spans three compasses thought to be stylistically antithetical: the ever-humming Herberman, the supposedly rarefied and difficult Sondheim and the determinedly populist Lloyd Webber.

"They're artists of a different nature, that's all: their souls come out in different ways," says Peters, who had been performing professionally for almost two decades before she first worked with Sondheim, on Sunday in the Park. "I never thought I would ever be in a Sondheim show and assumed I was just from a different world. I felt I was someone he probably wouldn't be interested in: I judged myself. I limited myself, which you should not do, and I was really wrong."

She now acknowledges Sunday in the Park as the turning point in a career that had previously honoured her kewpie-doll looks and fresh-faced innocence without fully allowing Peters to be the emotional pivot and centre to a show. "I was finally in a hit," she says, having weathered a short-lived 1971 revival of On the Town (for which she nonetheless received a Tony nomination) and, two years earlier, an album-forgettable stage musical of the Fellini film La Strada by Brian's own Lionel Bart.

"It was nice to be in something that was a success and that led you back so much," she says of Sunday in the Park, which survived a bumpy workshop and troubled previews to run for 540 performances and win the Pulitzer Prize for Drama. "I still have a feeling that comes over me when I hear the opening French horn of that show."

Peters is no stranger to other media, having done a TV series and various films, including a rare Merchant-Ivory foray into the world of hip, downtown Manhattan (Slaves of



Fifty going on 25: Bernadette Peters is equally at home singing side by side with Sondheim, Herman and Lloyd Webber

New York, with Peters in the leading role as the novelist Tama Janowitz's alter ego, and virtually back-to-back projects (The Jerk and Pennies From Heaven) opposite one-time boyfriend Steve Martin. In 1981 she was even a Playboy cover girl. "You have to pick things that will be different and varied," says Peters, who began studying voice and dance at three-and-a-half, her second name by then changed by her mother from Lazzara to Peters so that the young Bernadette would not be typecast in ethnic roles.

"My mother told me that Bernadette was too long to fit on a billboard, but I knew what was really going on: she didn't want child agents to make me an Italian girl, which might have been kind of interesting. I probably would have had a whole other career being Anna Maria Alberghetti. Instead, newly married and looking some 20 years younger than she is, Peters remains her distinctive self. "There's a timeless quality to Bernadette," Martin Short, her Broadway co-star several years back in The Goodbye Girl, said to me recently. "She always looks the same: it's that Italian skin." And with an ancillary career doing concerts, and a forthcoming Broadway revival of Annie Get Your Gun as sharpshooter Annie Oakley, her future seems assured.

"The theatre is where I live strongly," says Peters. "I do see myself going on; I'm not tired out." And besides, she adds, why worry? "Worry makes trouble, so I prefer not to. I'd rather just assume the voice is there until it's not."

Bernadette Peters is in concert tomorrow at the Festival Hall, London SE1. 8pm (071-960-1242)

ARTS

TOMORROW Jacobi's Bacon: the verdict

Songs from the sex garden

MUSIC: John Allison charts the rise and rise of a young composer

Whatever the traditional routes are by which most young composers make a name, Donna McKeivitt has not followed them. Yet her rise to prominence has been sudden. Every one who heard the premiere of Translucence, her song cycle setting Derek Jarman's poems, at the City of London Festival this summer was moved and impressed, but nobody quite knew where the composer had come from.

Now the work has been released on CD by a major label, Teldec - not had for a 28-year-old's Opus 1. Surely she had been composing before making this official debut? "Not really. I didn't study composition. I went to Kingston Poly where I did a bog-standard BA in music, and I took part in a luncheon series of student works called Brahms is Dead, but I didn't consider myself a composer. I was much more into singing and playing the viola."

Two years after graduating, with no burning ambition to be a composer but just a feeling that she wanted to work in the practical performing arts, she was in the band Miranda's Sex Garden when they were invited to contribute to the soundtrack of Jarman's last movie, Blue. McKeivitt had to write the music, and the experience was to prove decisive.

"Jarman was a brilliant poet. Something in me clicked, and I felt compelled to explore his work. I didn't have a commission, but just set about gathering his writings and burying myself in them for six months before composing a note. The result is a work of haunting and unpretentious beauty, which succeeds above all because McKeivitt captures the pathos and wit of the poetry, it is also an eloquent tribute to the late Jarman, whom she never met. "He was ill and needed to spend his last few months with those close to him. When you have an idol, it's a selfish thing to want to take up their time."

A sticker on the CD case warns of "Explicit Lyrics", though as the quiet and gently unassuming McKeivitt is quick to point out, "most of the texts are not provocative, they are tender love songs. But the whole point was to represent Jarman as a poet, and if I'd only set the 'nice' stuff, I'd have been unrepresentative of him. That's also why the musical style is simple. I didn't want to impose myself on his work, so I allowed myself to be led by the poetry, and I hope the results are true to both Derek's writing and his inner world."

It quickly becomes clear how important literary images are to McKeivitt. "Words make a gradual but lasting impression on me, sculpture and painting too. I'm much less influenced by other people's music, though I love and admire figures like Messiaen, George Benjamin and Kurtag, who's very liberating in that he does whatever he wants to. The Jarman taught me that when working in London, which is so noisy and distracting, it really helps in having something solid to concentrate on. But I'm probably going to be moving to France, to an isolated old watermill in the Massif Central mountains. I'm hoping that by working there I'll be able to free myself from this need for texts."

McKeivitt's next two projects are both poetry inspired. Currently immersed in Celan settings for the counter-tenor Michael Chance (the soloist in Translucence) and Fretwork, she is also turning her attention to the work of Messiaen's mother, Cecile Sauvage. "I had difficulty finding her poetry. Even in the British Library, on the Internet and at Paris publishers I drew a blank. Then, on a trip through France with my partner, our motorbike broke down, and I went into an antique store to ask if they had heard of Sauvage. 'Oui, oui,' the man said, and handed me the only two volumes she ever completed! She wrote an amazing cycle they include while pregnant with Messiaen, incredibly prophetic, sensual poetry, but with a melancholic edge."

These projects are "enough for now", McKeivitt is not working to a deadline, doesn't like the idea of pressure, and is not yet used to the idea of getting commissioned. "I was on the dole for two years while working on Translucence, and if that's what I have to do, I'll do it. I'd rather do that than write a jingle. I'd rather do something else than write bad music."

Translucence is released this week by Teldec (0984-22500-2)



Donna McKeivitt inspired by Derek Jarman's poems

Soaring songs without words

Is there anything she has not sung? Sibongile Khumalo has recorded Zulu folk songs, appeared as a soloist in Verdi's Requiem, starred in musicals and performed the national anthems at the rugby World Cup finals in South Africa. And she plays the violin.

When singers with even a hint of a classical pedigree cross into the jazz field the results are usually less than satisfactory. Many a diva endowed with glittering technique and cavernous lungs has come to grief on a humble show tune. Khumalo - who is in residence in Soho until Saturday - handles the transition better than most. By concentrating on South African compositions in her opening set - including a tribute to Miriam Makeba - she wisely played to her strengths.

For much of the evening she deployed her voice like an instrumentalist. As on the newly released Johannesburg recording, Live At The Market Theatre, she opened with soaring wordless vocals on Abdullah Ibrahim's Tsakwe/Royal Blue. Ibrahim is a master of simple but memorable melodies - some of his pieces glow with the unpretentious majesty of a Wesley hymn. Khumalo's artless delivery explored the unadorned theme over an insistent bass line. At the close she added an intricate coda in a display of immaculate microphone control.

What was largely absent in this set was the casual stretching and contracting of rhythm that you come to expect from instinctive jazz singers. An avowed admirer of the exode Rachelle Ferrell - another virtuoso with an instrumental technique - Khumalo enjoys luxuriating in extended legato phrases that waft to and fro over the unhurried piano chords of her musical director Themba Mkhize. The approach has its limitations, especially on material as gentle as Umbongo, a tune by her trumpeter Prince Lengoasa. Here and elsewhere, Lengoasa unfurls some wispily Miles-ish solos with the harmonic mule, but you cannot help wishing the arrangements could be more forceful at times. But if you want the hustle-bustle of straight-ahead pop, you can turn to the crisp

JAZZ Sibongile Khumalo Ronnie Scott's

support set from trombonist Altsair White and saxophonist Pete Wareham, prizewinners in last year's Royal and Sun Alliance Young Jazz Musician of the Year competition.

CLIVE DAVIS

NOTE CHANGE OF DATE BELOW * ALAN CLARK FORUM

Alan Clark, the Tory MP, historian and celebrated diarist, will be speaking on his new book, The Tories: Conservatives and the Nation State 1922-1997 (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £20) at a Times/Dillons Forum on Wednesday, September 23, 1998.

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THE TIMES WEDNESDAY
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Court of Appeal

Assignment without consent effective

Hendry v Chartsearch Ltd
Before Lord Justice Evans, Lord Justice Henry and Lord Justice Millett
[Judgment July 23]
The assignment to a third party of the benefit of a contract without the prior consent of the other contracting party, as the contract required, was without legal effect so far as the other party was concerned and could be disregarded by that party with impunity, even though the assignment was effective as between the assignor and the assignee third party.

His Lordship said that a number of issues had to be considered. One of those was the position with regard to security for costs. The debtor had a statutory right which protected him from being sued by an impecunious plaintiff: *Norglen Ltd (in Liquidation) v Reeds Rains Prudential Ltd* ([1997] 3 WLR 1177).

LORD JUSTICE EVANS said that the pleaded facts were straightforward. There was an assignment, it was alleged, in qualified rather than absolute terms.

However great the disadvantages to the creditor, company or individual, it could not be regarded as unreasonable for the debtor to insist on that statutory right. For that reason his Lordship considered that the defendants were entitled to refuse consent.

LORD JUSTICE HENRY said that where an assignment of contractual rights, such as a chose in action, was prohibited without the prior written consent of the other contracting party, such consent not to be unreasonably refused, there could be no valid assignment until after (i) written consent had been granted, or (ii) the court had declared that the consent had been unreasonably refused: *Linden Gardens (1988)*.

The suggestion that the assignor could validly assign in breach of his contract without ever seeking prior consent by asserting that, as such consent could not reasonably be refused, was in his view an unnecessary, and a recipe to promote uncertainty and speculative litigation.

But where the bar was qualified, he submitted, so that consent was required but might not be unreasonably withheld, then the reasonableness or otherwise of the refusal, had to be considered in the light of all the circumstances, taking both parties' interests into account.

Since those matters required investigation the claim should not be struck out at the interlocutory stage, and Mr O'Mahony relied especially on allegations that the defendants deliberately sought to destroy Interface's business so as to starve it of funds and so prevent it from bringing proceedings on its own.

Mr Freeman contended that without consent the assignment was a nullity, alternatively the defendants were entitled reasonably to withhold their consent if they had been asked to give it. The trial relationship had ended and the proposed assignment was to transfer and assign to him the causes of action against the defendants arising from their failure to pay the sums due. Notice of the

plaintiff alleged, inter alia, as chairman and 50 per cent shareholder of Interface Data Centres Ltd and relying on two written agreements of February 1991 and November 1992 between Interface and the defendants under which Interface undertook in return for payment by the defendants to provide data processing facilities and services on computer hardware and software, that the defendants breached the agreements, and that Interface passed a special resolution in September 1993 under which the company agreed to transfer and assign to him the causes of action against the defendants arising from their failure to pay the sums due. Notice of the

assignment was given to the defendants in November 1993. Mr Declan O'Mahony for the plaintiff; Mr Clive Freedman, QC for the defendants.

His Lordship said that the assignor to ask for consent to assign in breach of contract, let alone in repudiatory breach, is simply did not affect the defendants' legal position and could be regarded by them with impunity.

Court cannot grant housing injunction

All v Westminster City Council
Nairne v Camden London Borough Council
Before Sir Stephen Brown, President of the Family Division, Lord Justice Otton and Lord Justice Mummery
[Judgment July 24]
The county court had no jurisdiction to grant an interlocutory injunction requiring a local authority to provide accommodation for a person proceeding with an appeal under section 204 of the Housing Act 1996.

LORD JUSTICE OTTON said that the appeals were confined to the narrow point of law whether the county court had jurisdiction to grant an interlocutory injunction requiring a local authority to provide accommodation for a person who was proceeding with an appeal against a review decision made under the 1996 Act.

Housing Act applications to local authorities consisted of five stages: the initial application, the inquiry period, the decision, the internal review of that decision and finally an appeal to the county court. The case concerned the last two stages.

The local authority was under a duty to provide interim accommodation for the homeless while making inquiries. Parliament had stated clearly when and in what circumstances that duty came to an end.

Prosecution must act with speed

Regina v Leeds Crown Court, Ex parte Whitehead
Where the prosecution applied for an extension of custody time limits under section 6(1) of the Magistrates' Courts Act 1980 could not be undertaken within those time limits when it otherwise could have been, the prosecution had not acted with due expedition as required by section 23(7)(b) of the Prosecution of Offences Act 1985.

Court of Appeal

Supplying medicines at doctor's surgery

Juror visited scene of murder

Notice served although not received

Regina v Family Health Services Authority, Ex parte Elmfield Drugs Ltd, Regina v Same, Ex parte Selles Dispensing Chemists Ltd (Beverley), Regina v Same, Ex parte Selles Dispensing Chemists Ltd (Caistor)
Before Lord Justice Stuart-Smith, Lord Justice Swinton Thomas and Lord Justice Aldous
[Judgment July 23]
It was not unlawful for a doctor to delegate to another who was neither a doctor nor a pharmacist the supply of medicine to his patients. The doctor did not personally have to hand over medical supplies to patients.

The patient then took the prescription to a dispensing area, or if computer generated, the prescription was printed out automatically in the doctor's dispensary and the medicine was supplied generally by someone who was not the doctor, but might be a receptionist or nurse, but at all events was not qualified as a pharmacist or doctor.

Mr Beloff was right in submitting that the solution was to be found in the application of general principles of agency and the ordinary principles of statutory construction.

His Lordship referred to *Chitty on Contract* (27th edition (1994) volume 2, paragraph 31-00) and *Bowstead on Agency* (16th edition (1994) 2-016) to which he had directed himself and agreed that handing over, as opposed to making up medicines in the circumstances contemplated here, did not require discretion.

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CHANGING TIMES

Kinch and Another v Bullard and Others
Before Mr Justice Neuberger
[Judgment July 27]
A notice of severance of a joint tenancy of matrimonial property sent pursuant to section 36(2) of the Law of Property Act 1925, despite not having been received by the addressee, had been validly served in accordance with section 19(3) of the 1925 Act once it had been posted by ordinary first class mail and had been delivered at the property; the notice had, therefore, been given in accordance with section 19(3) and need not then be withdrawn by the sender.

Notice served although not received

Regina v Smyth (Paul), Regina v Aspinall (John), Regina v Aspinall (Thomas)
Where a juror, during the course of a judge's summing-up, had visited a scene of the crime in order to assess the colour of the lighting there, such an irregularity would only have rendered the subsequent conviction unsafe if it could have had an effect of some significance in the issues which the jury had to determine.

It was not right to test the matter by reference to what Mrs Johnson thought or intended because she had left it to the post office to serve the notice.

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Regina v Same, Ex parte Selles Dispensing Chemists Ltd (Beverley), Regina v Same, Ex parte Selles Dispensing Chemists Ltd (Caistor)
Before Lord Justice Stuart-Smith, Lord Justice Swinton Thomas and Lord Justice Aldous
[Judgment July 23]
It was not unlawful for a doctor to delegate to another who was neither a doctor nor a pharmacist the supply of medicine to his patients. The doctor did not personally have to hand over medical supplies to patients.

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THE TIMES WEDNESDAY
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NORMAL FOCUS

11.45 BEEVADE STAKES

Commonwealth Games: Competitors display high degree of courage in oppressive conditions

Athletes wilt in the heat of battle

Backley to lead England's golden harvest

FROM ROB HUGHES

IN ANY tournament, anywhere in the world, we can ask no more than the men of England and Malaysia gave at a pulsating National Hockey Stadium last night. It was a hard, exhausting match that ended 2-2 only after the opponents had drawn on their limits of skill and will. Neither would yield, England because they had the better technique and organisation, Malaysia because they had the crowd, 12,000 strong but in such voice that it might have been five times that number, breathing hope into them.

At five ringgit a ticket — less than one pound — every man, woman and child who could get in would return today if they could. England will have to do so because the second greatest deficiency of such a demanding contest is that the lack of an uneven draw requires England to play again this evening, against the well-rested Pakistan.

This is bordering on inhumane scheduling. Those who saw the players, reddened under the 90-degree heat, dehydrated and clinging to water bottles to attempt the task of replacing four kilos per man weight loss, can just about sense what William Waugh, the England captain, meant when he said: "It was so humid out there that after ten minutes I was looking at the clock, feeling so tired I thought it must be near half-time."

Part-time hockey players know the consequences of



pushing the body in extreme conditions. Some of them were in their rooms at the Commonwealth Games Village yesterday when Amay Khurasia, a young India batsman, collapsed while fielding against Australia.

It was a dramatic moment, a warning to all the 4,280 participants in the Games that the oppressive air here sucks the resistance out of people. Khurasia was in hospital after the match, on a saline drip. His temperature had soared to 103F and three separate explanations circulated: that he is a vegetarian who cannot match his dietary requirements here, that he underwent a dope test on Monday, and that his team knew he was dehydrated before the match.

He is in caring hands now, but the England hockey players are in for another grilling today. They do not take slow-

dissolving salt tablets, as England footballers did during the 1986 World Cup in Mexico, but are advised to consume as many salty foods as possible. And to drink, drink, drink, though champagne — ultimately earned by the Olympic gold-medal squad in Seoul in 1988, of which Russell Garcia, of today's team, was a member — is as yet a mirage.

England must beat Pakistan to be sure of reaching the semi-finals on Saturday. The players and their coach, Barry Dancer, spent this morning studying a video of the Pakistanis, who will present a different technical and tactical battle to the Malaysians. Yet Malaysia, who came back spirited from a goal down to equalise, then lead, and finally to hang on dearly for the draw, also drew with Pakistan.

Paul Lissek, their coach, is German, committed and having a remarkable effect on Malaysia in the short term. Lissek, whose full-time job is managing Germany, has selected astonishingly young players, such as the 20-year-old goalkeeper, Roslan Jarnaluddin, and the 17-year-old schoolboy, Logan Kavandan.

"I lost my voice out there today, but the point means all four in the group can qualify for the semi-finals," Lissek said. "I respect my players, but from now on they must play — and I mean play. They cannot be afraid like they were against England, like chickens afraid of the snake. England was the better team. I know that. As a German, to see England coming again so strong in world hockey, with a coach who knows everything tactical, that's nice for hockey."

There is no more modern or atmospheric arena in the sport than the National Stadium, though Lahore, with 85,000 partisans, is a different pressure-cooker. But yesterday, after Justin Pidcock, a chartered surveyor, had dived in where only the brave dare to put England ahead, Chahiri Anwar equalised with an audacious set-piece, a low shot driven from an oblique angle. It seemed nothing but a flick of the wrist but it was enough to deceive Simon Mason, the England goalkeeper.

After half-time, Mason's agile block from a penalty corner could not prevent Nawari



Russell Tiffin, the umpire, summons assistance for Khurasia after his collapse yesterday

swooping to put Malaysia ahead. But all Malaysia's resistance could not prevent Jon Wyatt, a management consultant, equalising from a penalty stroke.

If Wyatt and his men were

professional football players, they would then have moaned the one-sided nature of the schedule and the overbearing odds of beating nature itself. But they did not. "Having

such a crowd, whoever they are shouting for, is great for the game," Waugh said. "We'll take lots of fluids, lots of sleep, and be back as fresh as possible for Pakistan." It is called sportsmanship.

FROM DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

MARK RICHARDSON was talking yesterday about his prospects for winning the 400 metres here when he was asked whether the Commonwealth Games presented a tougher field in his event than had the European championships in Budapest last month.

"Yes," he said, before coming to the most relevant point. "Everybody is going to be tired, so there are bound to be a few surprises."

While Iwan Thomas may be the favourite on form this season — he has won the European and World Cup titles — the fatigue factor may tilt the balance towards Richardson. Thomas has had only one night to recover from flying through several time zones and a 14-hour journey from Johannesburg, where he took part in the World Cup at the weekend, before lining up in the heats today.

For many athletes, such as Thomas, the season has been long and hard. However, for two, the season is beginning at the end. In this, the last meaningful challenge of a hectic year, Ashia Hansen and Kelly Holmes will be looking to squeeze a little drop of satisfaction out of an empty season.

Today is the first day of the six-day athletics programme and, for all the gold medals that will be won by mainly English, but perhaps Scottish and Welsh athletes as well, none would be more delightful to see than if Holmes retained her 1,500 metres title. A four-inch scar on her left Achilles tendon is testimony to the injury that threatened her career.

After limping off the track in the opening round of the world championships in Athens last year, worse was to follow as surgery failed to do the trick. Still not running by April, she turned to the specialist who saved Liz McColgan's career and, in Glasgow last month, had her first international race in 12 months.

Holmes won, but in a modest time. "My expectations are always high but I have got to put it into perspective and, as long as I finish the champion-

ships in one piece, I will be happy," she said.

Hansen, having set an indoor triple jump world record in February, has missed almost the entire season with a bruised heel. "It would be fantastic to win the Commonwealth gold but the European championships were my goal for the year and it was difficult for me not being there," Hansen said.

The men's 400 metres, and especially the men's 100 metres, may be more competitive than in Budapest, but these are Games that will be dominated by British athletes, largely because of the weakness of the opposition, particularly in the technical disciplines. Of the

ATHLETICS

46 gold medals, one third or so should be shared by England, Scotland and Wales, much of the success coming in the field events.

With Dougie Walker, the European 200 metres champion, injured, Scotland's hopes rest with Allison Curbishley, in the 400 metres. She can take advantage of the absence of Cathy Freeman, of Australia, and Sandie Richards, of Jamaica, the gold and silver medal winners from the world championships last year.

In the absence of Colin Jackson, Thomas is Wales' best hope but England's potential winners are too numerous to mention. The greatest accolade, though, should be reserved for Steve Backley if, having won his third successive European javelin title last month, he can do the same in the Commonwealth Games, completing a double-treble.

While the 100 metres includes Ato Boldon, Frankie Fredericks and Obadiah Thompson, leaving Dairre Campbell, the European champion, needing to improve to win a medal, many events are embarrassingly weak. The challenge, for example, to succeed Sally Gunnell as 400 metres champion has been taken up by only six women.

Nicol must overcome his power failure

SQUASH

PETER NICOL was the only player among five Britons to improve on a bronze medal from the singles competition yesterday, and he will need to reverse the trend of the past two years to turn his opportunity into gold today (Colin McQuillan writes).

Nicol, the left-handed Scot, faces Jonathon Power, of Canada, in the men's final. Nicol has failed to overcome Power on six occasions during his climb to the top of the world rankings. Power eased past Alex Gough, of Wales, 9-4, 9-2, 9-4 yesterday, while Nicol in-

flicted a 9-2, 9-3, 9-1 defeat on Paul Johnson, the England No 3, who was still suffering from the effort of removing the world champion, Rodney Eyles, from the quarter-finals.

The women's final today is an all-Australian affair after easy victories over English opponents in the semi-finals. Sarah Fitz-Gerald, the world champion, defeated Cassandra Jackman 9-2, 9-0, 9-2, and Michelle Martin overcame Sue Wright 9-7, 9-1, 9-2.

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CHANGING TIMES

THE TIMES WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 16 1998

Commonwealth Games

Thompson to dig to win

encouraged

FROM DAVID POWELL

MARK RICHARDSON

ATHLETICS

SWIMMING

Swaziland

صحن من الأمل

SOMETIMES
IT'S EASIER
TO TALK
TO SOMEONE
YOU
DON'T LIKE.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY EDWARD SYKES



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Wales hopes Harris Sullivan

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3-2	33/1	10/1	
4-0	5/1	11/1	
4-1	5/1	12/1	
4-2	18/1	13/1	

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WILLIAM

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RUGBY UNION

Wales pin hopes on Harris and Sullivan

By Mark Souster

WALES are making an ambitious and audacious attempt to persuade two of rugby league's most high-profile players to switch codes ahead of the World Cup next year.

Wales' most high-profile players to switch codes ahead of the World Cup next year. Iestyn Harris, of Leeds Rhinos, and Andrew Sullivan, of the St Helens wing, are understood to be considering offers of 12-month contracts that could see them join either Cardiff or Neath.

Both players, plus Shane Howarth, the former New Zealand international who qualifies for Wales, met Graham Henry, the Wales coach, and Terry Cobner, the Welsh Rugby Union (WRU) director of rugby, in Manchester last Friday.

Harris, 22, and Sullivan, 27, both indicated their desire to represent Wales in the World Cup; whether they actually do, will depend on the outcome of negotiations over compensation.

open to review at Christmas. He replaces Keith Richardson, who left at the start of the season to rejoin Gloucester as forwards coach.

Discussions on the feasibility of establishing a British and Irish league next season, begins next Tuesday when three representatives from each of the four home unions, including one representing either clubs, districts or provinces, meet in Manchester.

One issue to be addressed is how such a tournament would fit into an already congested season that would also include a European competition. The European Cup starts on Saturday with English participation and, as yet, without a sponsor.

South Africa are to experiment with the use of a television referee to assist match officials. Starting this weekend, a fourth official will operate at ten televised under-21 matches over the next six weeks.

Japan defeated Argentina for the first time in an international yesterday, winning 44-29 in Tokyo. The game was part of Japan's build-up for the Asian regional qualifying competition next month for the World Cup.



Chris Wilkinson serves during his straight-sets defeat by Jan Kroslak and Todd Larkham yesterday, a day that was very much in keeping with the traditions of British tennis (Alex Ramsay writes). Play was delayed for two hours by rain and, once the sun appeared, the homegrown players sank without trace.

Maclagan were trying to do the same with Kroslak and Todd Larkham respectively, with little success. Maclagan's promotion to the dizzy heights of No 4 in the Davis Cup team could not save him against Larkham and, in a mere 60 minutes, he was dismissed 6-1, 6-1. Wilkinson did not seem unduly concerned over his 6-4, 7-5 defeat by Kroslak. Clay is not Wilkinson's favourite surface even though, at 25, he is still working at it. But facing 13 stoc and 6ft 2in of Slovakian muscle, the slender Wilkinson could not make

much headway, despite holding a couple of points for the second set. "If I could have had one decent shot on one of those points, I could have taken the set," he said. "That is about the best I can play on clay." No matter, he is looking forward to a hit of high-quality practice with Messrs Henman and Rusedski in Nottingham next week and from there it is back to the hilly-burly of the challenger circuit before the national championships in Telford, where Wilkinson will be the No 1 seed in the absence of the top two.

Henman makes smooth progress

TIM HENMAN cruised through his first-round match of the President's Cup in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, yesterday when he defeated Nir Welgreen, of Israel, in straight sets. The new British No 1, attempting to win the event for the second consecutive year, crushed Welgreen 6-1, 6-4.

but had to battle to a 7-6, 7-5 success over Tuomas Ketola, of Finland. Henman said: "Sometimes the first round isn't the easiest match, but I was pretty happy with the way I played. I served well and playing on a quick court like this we've got here, that's very important."

whereas Greg Rusedski slipped to No 15. But Henman shrugged off the perceived rivalry between the nation's top two players as he held BBC Radio 5 Live: "It's not really a big issue between Greg and myself, it's more of a focal point for other people."

FOR THE RECORD

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CRICKET

Ormrod is dismissed for lack of success

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE have reacted to another season of considerable underachievement by sacking Alan Ormrod, the cricket manager, after five years at the club.

Stuart Foster, the cricket committee chairman, said: "For a club of this stature and ambition, the results have not been good enough. We all had high expectations this season but, if anything, we have probably drifted backwards."

Northamptonshire have revealed that the final decision to play against Sussex last week on a pitch subsequently deemed unfit was taken by John Emburey, the chief coach. An England and Wales Cricket Board panel ordered a 25-point deduction after concluding that the surface "displayed uneven bounce and turned excessively".

Derbyshire have re-engaged Michael Slater, the Australia batsman, as overseas player next season.

IN BRIEF

Rugby club punished for breach of rules

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE High, the Scottish second division side, has had four points deducted for fielding an ineligible player in their first two Tennent's Velvee Premiership matches of the season.

Hawick, however, have been ordered to replay their match against Forth Wanderers after being found guilty of a similar offence.

Spain, won yesterday's toughest mountain stage of his country's national tour from Vic to Andorra. He went clear from Fernando Escartín to win the 199 kilometre stage by 16 seconds.

Cricket: José María Jiménez, of Spain, won yesterday's toughest mountain stage of his country's national tour from Vic to Andorra.

Football: Bruce Grobbelaar, Liverpool goalkeeper, has been appointed caretaker coach of Zimbabwe for a crucial regional cup-tie against Zambia on September 27.

The Harare clash will determine who tops the 400,000-dollar Castle Cup Southern Africa championship standings with Zimbabwe needing a draw while holders Zambia must win.

Cricket: Jean Charles Gombou, of France, and Colin Brooks, of Scotland, of the Port Royal Golf Range near Edinburgh Airport, led the field by a single stroke after both carded five-over-par 66s in the first round of the PGA European Tour Pre-qualifying event at the Wyford Club in Northumberland.

TENNIS 37

Wilkinson slides to defeat in Bournemouth



SPORT

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 16 1998

SIMON BARNES 38

Cricket showdown that inspires nothing but apathy



Manchester United and Arsenal begin quest for European football's greatest prize

Ferguson seeks fulfilment

Wenger finds strength in the old guard



By Kevin McCarron

THERE was a scene missing from the television documentary about Alex Ferguson that was transmitted last night...

Even if his life has too many shades to be depicted in such primary colours, the European Cup does bring Ferguson to a state of heightened awareness...

"I'll keep on getting that question until it happens," he said. A wry answer fooled no one and there were to be glimpses of his intense reaction to the tournament...

"It was a chastening experience," Ferguson said, "but you cannot look back on what happened four years ago as being monumental. We've come on since then. Sometimes you need a jolt to bring you on a step."

For their part, Barcelona may have slipped back, and they are no longer served by Romario, the Brazil forward who tormented United in 1994...



Patrick Kluyvert, centre, leads the Barcelona squad during their training session in Wrexham yesterday. Photograph: Dave Kendall

like that now, but they are still a good team. The Spanish champions have been in uncertain form and will be without Miguel Angel Nadal, the veteran centre half whom United once wished to sign...

al change since Louis van Gaal, the Barcelona coach, came to the club in the summer of 1997. Heavy defeats in the European Cup and several other misadventures proved to be milestones on a curious journey last season that took Barcelona to the League and Cup double, but there was much disparagement of his side...

were favourites of the fans, but Van Gaal still sold them. In the desire for the tactical rigour that he counted upon when managing Ajax, he has five Dutchmen in his squad and Ronald Koeman has been appointed as his assistant...

Ferguson. He dismissed as "absolute rubbish" reports that BSKyB, the bidders to take over United, were trying to buy Hidetoshi Nakata, the Japan attacking midfielder player, from Perugia.

equally spurious. "You can call it fiction if you like," he said, implying that there was truth in the assertion. All the same, it is difficult to see Ferguson leaving Old Trafford if an improved contract is offered.



Ferguson: on a quest



Van Gaal: complaint

There are the fruits of his work to be enjoyed in Manchester, where he seems happy with the depth of his squad. Henning Berg is to replace the injured Ronny Johnsen in central defence and there will be the intriguing sight of Dwight Yorke making his European debut for the club, partnering Ole Gunnar Solskjaer in attack...

MANCHESTER UNITED (probable): 4-4-2, P. Schuster - S. Neville, J. Stone, H. Berg, P. Neville - O. Bergstrom, R. Keane, P. Scholes, R. Giggie - O. Yorke, O. G. Solskjaer. BARCELONA (11 - probable): 4-1-2-3-1 R. Hesp - S. Chiriquo, F. Altedo, M. Rogier, Berg - P. Toco - L. Enrique, B. Centon - I. Figo, S. Anderson, P. Rivaldo

Wasim fights to clear name

By Richard Hobson

WASIM AKRAM has withdrawn from international cricket while he strives to prove his innocence against allegations of match-fixing. The Pakistan all-rounder, one of the best players of his generation, has hired a retired judge from Karachi to protest his case after being implicated with Salim Malik and Ijaz Ahmed in an interim report by the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) leaked last week.

It recommended that none of the three should be chosen until investigations are completed. Wasim has described the claims as "a conspiracy" and suggested that they stem from rivalries within the PCB and jealousy at his earnings from the sport.

cannot. I am happy, though, because I know I have done nothing wrong. Little is predictable in Pakistani cricket but, if Wasim is correct in his anticipated time-scale, then a career at the top level could be over at the age of 32. He has played 79 Tests and his total of 341 wickets is just 21 behind the best by a Pakistani, set by Imran Khan.

"I must clear my name for me, my friends, my family and most of all for my son," Wasim said. "Unfortunately, I have had to leave cricket because it might take two or three years to get through this. When allegations like this arise, you need to fight them. I would love to carry on but I simply cannot. I am happy, though, because I know I have done nothing wrong."

There may be consolation, however. Although he will not be re-engaged by Lancashire, Wasim has effectively removed himself from consideration for the World Cup next summer, and so would be available to another English county for the 1999 season.



Wasim: denies match-fixing

Drummers hoping to hit right note

FOR YEARS the clatter of a simple rattle was the most sophisticated synecopation to the cheers from the terraces.

But the newly-named Waterloo Drummers are taking big steps in an effort to shake their normally reserved spectators into something approaching excitement. Those supporters of the Allied Dunbar Premiership Two rugby club with a nervous disposition, however, should be warned that free admission to the game on Saturday is only on offer to anyone who turns up with a drum.

Kevin Eason reports on an idea intended to attract young fans

generate the sonic pain of a pop concert to be worth the entrance money for the less devoted spectator. Steven Morris, the Drummers' business development manager, says that the new name was part of a plan to attract a younger audience.

"We want to attract more first-time spectators to Waterloo, but the game can be very boring to new people, particularly children, because it is so complicated," he said.

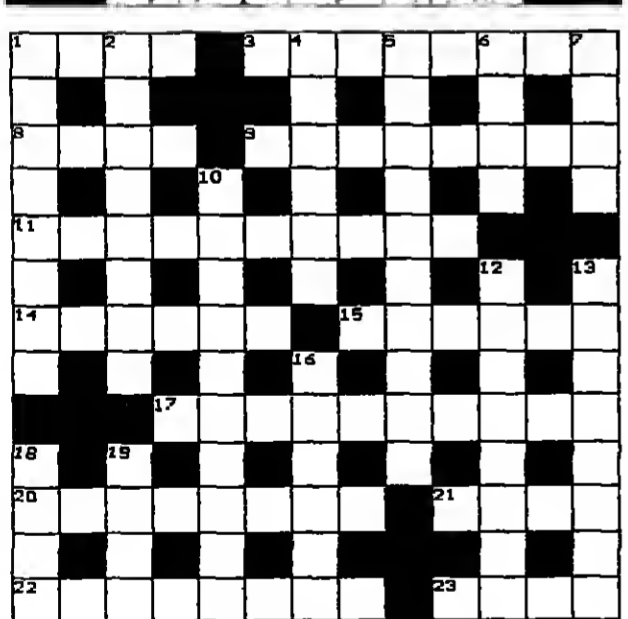
The problem of the sometimes near-comatose crowd is not unknown in football or rugby clubs. Not surprisingly, the Football League has been caught between its need to present soccer as an emotional spectacle and the concern to exert iron control over crowds.

Its solution was a report that suggested that there might be "designated song leaders with musical instruments and amplification" to ginger up spectators. The bands of wandering minstrels have not always received a cheery welcome.

The nine-strong band that is a feature of Sheffield Wednesday's home games has found stewards at away gamesrotchcity. Indeed, John Hemmington, the leader, has even had his trumpet confiscated as a potentially offensive weapon.

For the Drummers, though, culture is not a problem; only finding the beat that will be a winning rhythm.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



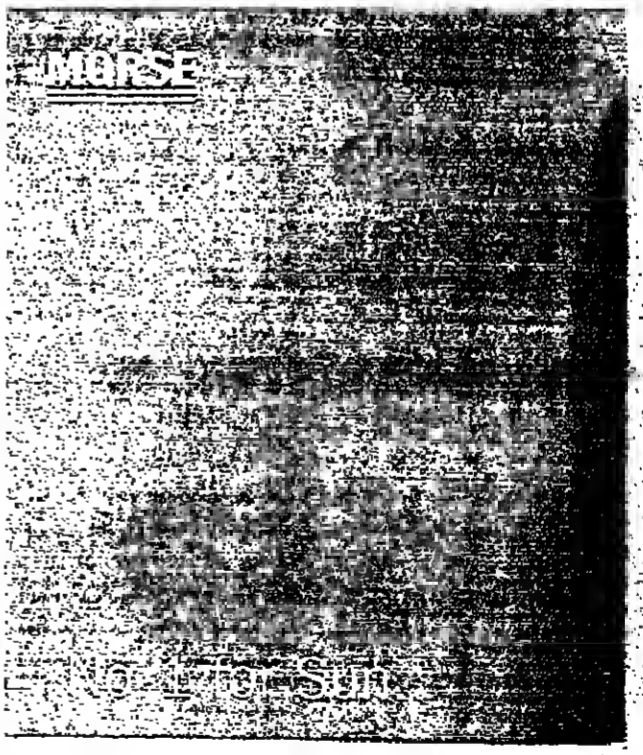
No 1512

- ACROSS: 1 Confront (4), 3 Ill-feeling (3,5), 8 Wild party (4), 9 Place of abode (3), 11 Versatile person (3-7), 14 FR... Cambridge lit. critic (6), 15 Customs tax (6), 17 With furious energy (4,5-1), 20 Unfairness (3), 21 Roll up (leg broily) (4), 22 Seasoned: made less sympathetic (8), 23 Supply: gratify (4). DOWN: 1 In official way (8), 2 Eng C17. US C19. Russia C20 event (5,3), 4 Quantity (6), 5 Wedding attendant (10), 6 Roman poet (4), 7 Legal document: exploit (4), 10 Tender care (10), 12 Fr. city, sounds like to forfeit (8), 13 Took leisurely walk (8), 16 Grinding, crushing tool (6), 18 Follower of Guru Nanak (4), 19 Visionary (4)

- SOLUTION TO NO 1511: ACROSS: 1 Posh 3 Far-flung 8 Smoother 10 Night 11 Come-uppance 13 Docket 15 Agatha 17 Part company 20 Azure 21 Easeful 22 Fleeting 23 Flee DOWN: 1 Postcode 2 Storm 4 Abrupt 5 Fun and games 6 Unquiet 7 Ghe 9 House arrest 12 Navy blue 14 Capture 16 Screen 18 Awful 19 Waif

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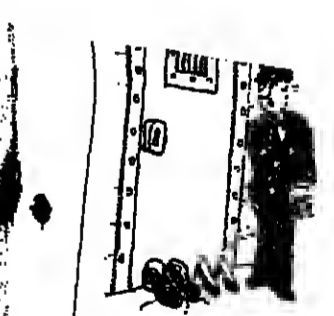
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The Master of the Rats and his wife are to spend a night "banged up" in Britain jail. Page 3

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